

SCOPING REPORT:

SNOW KING MOUNTAIN RESORT ON-MOUNTAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

June 14, 2019

INTRODUCTION

On August 3, 2018, the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) issued a public scoping notice summarizing Snow King Mountain Resort's (Snow King) proposed improvements project (the proposed action) and inviting comments regarding the scope of the associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The projects included in the proposed action are included in Snow King's current master development plan (MDP), accepted by the BTNF.

Information regarding the scoping period and available materials for review was sent to the agencies, organizations, and individuals on the BTNF mailing list. The scoping notice was posted on the BTNF website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54201> and made available on CD or in hard-copy form to anyone requesting it.

The scoping period formally began on August 3, 2018, when a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (NOI) was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 83, No. 150, pp. 38117-38118). The scoping period scheduled to close 30 days later on September 2, 2018. A correction to the project website address and extension of the scoping comment period to September 13, 2018, was published in the Federal Register on August 14, 2018 (Vol. 83, No. 157, pp. 40215-40216). A news release was circulated August 14, 2018, notifying the public of the comment period extension. On September 14, 2018, notice of a second extension of the scoping period was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 83, No. 179, p. 46701), allowing submittal of comments until October 4, 2018.

Comment letters were received from 10 agencies, 11 organizations, and 419 individuals. The scoping notice, NOI, and comment letters are included in the project record.

Appendix 1 Table 1 identifies each comment email or letter, noting the ID code assigned to it, the name and address of the commenter, and the topic or topics raised. ID codes indicate whether the comments are from an agency, organization, or individual (A, O, and I, respectively), and the number of the comment letter within that category. Below in the body of the report, that code is followed by a hyphen then the number of the specific comment within that letter (e.g., O4-2).

PROCESSING OF COMMENTS

A key step in the scoping process is determining which comments affect the scope of the NEPA analysis and which do not. Comments that do not affect the scope of the analysis include those that:

- Express an opinion without an associated issue or concern.
- Are outside the scope of the decision to be made.
- Are addressed by other regulations, laws, or higher-level decisions (e.g., the Forest Plan).
- Are conjectural or not supported by science.

The comments received were associated with aspects of this NEPA process, various specific resource concerns, and simple opinions. Comments related to the NEPA process or a resource are quoted and indented under the appropriate topic or resource area, followed by a response specifying how the comments are being considered in this NEPA review.

Note that two or more comments may be addressed by a single response. In cases where multiple comments are similar in substance, representative comments are provided as examples, and reference codes to the other similar comments are listed following the comment or the heading introducing it.

Many of the comments received address multiple components of the analysis. For example, a single comment may address the soil and water quality components. Such comments are repeated in each resource category they addressed.

RESULTS

PROCESS

General

Several commenters addressed breadth and depth of the analysis, specifically:

With these concerns in mind, we recommend that a thorough and comprehensive NEPA process is conducted including an analysis of cumulative impacts and identification of mitigation measures. (A9-6)

I sincerely urge you to carefully evaluate the proposed Snow King Resort master plan...from a macro perspective, considering long term impacts upon the various stakeholders of the area. (I11-1)

Other improvements on the mountain such as zip lines should be balanced with an eye towards sustainability. (I85-9)

There are other issues regarding Town land (at the base), and various other 'knock-on' effects (traffic congestion, parking, etc.) which do not directly impinge on the FS land, but I expect the EIS to address these issues. (I259-1)

The project purpose and needs does not take into account the surrounding context of the GYE and of Jackson Hole—e.g. the ecological integrity of connecting lands and watershed. (I71-1)

Response: Our guiding strategy in completing this EIS will be to comply with direction in NEPA, the CEQ guidelines for its implementation, and Forest Service NEPA regulations, particularly their direction to focus analysis on potentially significant environmental effects and not carry analysis beyond the point necessary to identify them.

A commenter asked that current conditions be used as the baseline for assessing effects:

When evaluating effects of project alternatives, we recommend that current existing environmental conditions be used as the baseline for comparison of impacts across alternatives, including the No Action alternative. This is especially important when there are environmental protections in place that are based on current conditions. For all resources, we recommend that historical data (5 years or older) are verified as representative of current conditions. (A6-1)

Response: NEPA directs that the no-action alternative be used as the baseline for assessing the effects of a proposed action or action alternative. However, the EIS will describe existing conditions as a starting point for all analyses.

Two commenters posed questions about balance and trade-offs:

Do the proposed uses exceed a threshold between acceptable and harmful use? Where is that threshold? (O4-39)

The NEPA analysis needs to determine if the impact of the Snow King expansion has adverse impacts to other resources that outweigh the benefits to Snow King. (I333-15)

Response: The EIS will comply with CEQ direction regarding cost-benefit analysis (see 40 CFR § 1502.23).

One commenter asked that the NEPA process not be rushed:

Please do not rush this decision on a developer's timeline. Please do this slowly, carefully, and in conjunction with the Forest Service timeline. (I170-1)

Response: This EIS is being prepared in accordance with NEPA and the Forest Service's NEPA regulations. We anticipate an 18-month schedule to complete the process.

Pre-NEPA

The main pre-NEPA aspect addressed in scoping comments was the Stakeholder Group organized by the Town of Jackson and associated public engagement process. The effort carried through most of 2018 and included several Stakeholder Group meetings as well as two community meetings. The output was a report documenting four potential development scenarios identified through the process that would address community concerns. The report was submitted to the Town Council and to Snow King. Comments included the following:

Although there were four scenarios that were eventually published as the "product" of that effort, it is critically important that you understand that those scenarios do not reflect all the important discussions, concerns and commitments that were raised with regard to each of the key issues associated with the Town Base Area Master Plan Amendment (BAMPA) or USFS proposals...

What Snow King has done in their proposal is select various components from each of the scenarios while ignoring the important tradeoffs, commitments and compensation that were discussed, stressed and required by many of the Stakeholders in exchange for the inclusion of that component in that particular scenario. As a result, any statement by the developers that their proposals reflect the outcomes of the Stakeholder process or the desires of a majority of the public in general is misleading and incorrect, and seriously misrepresents the discussions that took place throughout the Stakeholder process... (I69-1a)

While everybody did not find common ground on all the elements discussed, there is undoubtedly (in my mind) an overwhelming desire to see Snow King succeed financially so they can be a viable community partner to all the organizations and individuals that use their facilities and terrain. (A1-1)

The extremists from both ends of the spectrum will be the loudest and hire the most people to speak up.... Please don't let these groups be the only voice heard on this subject just because they have the time and money to be the loudest. (I348-1)

Response: We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the county, town, and community in providing thorough discussion and thoughtful input on Snow King's proposal. That proposal, as described in our scoping notice issued August 3, 2018, is the focus of this EIS. We have read and will consider the entire stakeholder report as it relates to NFS lands.

Several commenters questioned the relationship between Snow King's current proposal and proposed private-land base area development:

Please respect the stakeholder process and negotiate the mechanism for financial support from the private lands upzone for the operations of the community recreation benefit of the town hill. (I67-2)

The SKMRA developers received a huge financial advantage with the zoning change. The citizens of Jackson deserve compensation for the zoning change. This should be resolved independently of any new phase of development. (I72-3)

And while Snow King will undoubtedly argue that the Town has given its "final approval", it has not presented the huge development and redevelopment of the base area to either the public or local planning authorities. Thus, the time is not ripe for the Forest Service to consider the proposal. Furthermore, it has purposely been submitted in partial and incomplete form. (I129-5)

Response: By law and regulation, this EIS must focus on the environmental effects of any development authorized by the Forest Service. Private-land, base-area development is not under our legal jurisdiction. The EIS will address any relevant cumulative environmental effects resulting from adding base-area development impacts to the direct and indirect effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Two commenters questioned whether this process indicated community support for the zip line:

How many people have voiced their support for this [zipline] on public record? Why didn't anyone voice an interest for this during the first SK Community Engagement forum, when about 100 objectives were derived? (I309-1)

They have been falsely stating that "the majority of the public who attended (SK engagement forum) voiced support for a zipline", but absolutely no one mentioned a zipline amongst the estimated 100+ "community interest" that were presented. (I301-8)

Response: Our scoping notice does not report community support for the zip line or any other element of the proposed action.

Scoping

The most common comment regarding scoping was a request to lengthen the comment period (I269-1, I299-2, I299-65, I299-67, I300-2, I306-1).

Response: The scoping period was ultimately extended from August 3 to October 4.

Several commenters also requested additional public meetings, some noting they should be held in neutral locations (I269-2, I299-1, I299-66, I330-2, I300-3, I302-1).

Response: In consideration of the extensive pre-NEPA effort involving the county, town, community, and Snow King, we did not see any benefit in additional public meetings during the scoping period.

Several commenters pointed out an error in the website address for submittal of comments or other issues electronic submittal (I269-3, I300-4, I303-1).

Response: That error was subsequently corrected and accounted in part for extension of the scoping period.

Two commenters objected to not receiving hard-copy scoping notices in the mail (I269-4, I300-5).

Response: The Forest Service, like most federal agencies, is moving toward digital communications during the NEPA process. Hard copies of the scoping notice were available at the BTNF office.

Purpose and Need

General

Some commenters suggested that the real reason for the proposal was profit for the permittee, with various positive and negative connotations (I268-4, I169-1, I195-4, I262-2, I391-9, I404-2). Examples include:

Revenues generated from fun experiences such as these will help fund the on-mountain improvements. (I4-10)

Is there a proven demand for the expansion as proposed, or is it just an effort to increase personal business value at the expense of our public lands? (I56-3)

Since the investment to make Snow King bigger is not realistic (the developer should be required to prove how they think it is realist), then the pursuit of profit from real estate is most likely their goal... (I8-6)

By expanding winter infrastructure, winter visitation opportunities increase beyond Teton Village. (A10-3)

Response: The Forest Service recognizes that permitted ski resorts are important allies in meeting our agency mandates to provide diverse forms of recreation on National Forest System lands. However, their financial matters are their own affair. The scoping notice clearly states the purpose and need for the proposed action.

Community Planning

One commenter viewed the proposed development as inconsistent with BTNF and Town goals:

We believe that the proposed road, boundary, and footprint expansions are in opposition to the Forest goals and our community goals. (O4-45)

Response: The BTNF endeavors to be good neighbors with adjoining communities and to coordinate planning to the extent possible while meeting our own agency's direction, including that documented in our Forest Plan. The EIS will address Forest Plan compliance, and any inconsistencies with county and town plans that are relevant to the analysis of environmental effects will be noted.

Ski Area Recreation Opportunity Enhancement Act

Commenters raised many questions as to the relevance of SAROE given the lifestyle and recreational opportunities that already exist in the Jackson area (I71-6, I71-7, I71-8, I71-9, I71-13, I71-20, I71-51, I218-77). Examples include:

We have sustainable recreation and tourism here in Jackson Hole. The Snow King proposal is not necessary to achieve the wider purposes stated in the SAROE...The impact statement needs to address how and to what degree this proposal actually serves, adds to, this larger context. Is it really "needed?" (I71-3)

To maintain and improve winter sport infrastructure on USFS lands at SKMR. In the proposal, this is placed in context of the ski industry seeking a more diverse range of recreational activities; however, we already have diverse recreational activities throughout Jackson Hole. (I71-4)

Provide new and innovative forms of year-round outdoor recreation for residents and visitors to JH using resort as hub: We already have mountain biking trails and downhill skiing in the immediate area. We also have many different types of opportunities: rafting, fishing, hiking, mountaineering and climbing, horseback riding, paddle-boarding, skating, etc. nearby. The zipline is the only "new" form of outdoor recreation. (I71-5)

"High quality guest service facilities" are not covered in the act as they are not related to Natural resource-based recreation (NRBR), nor are special event venues or even outdoor education centers covered under the act unless directly related to and subordinated to winter sports. The case for these additions needs to be closely examined. (I71-12)

A thorough examination is necessary of how the restaurant, etc. and the access road are necessary to the primary criteria of the special permit: winter sports, especially when these facilities are already available or can be accommodated at the base of the mountain. (I71-19)

Given that mountain biking covers almost more terrain and has a longer season than skiing, is it truly a “subordinate” use. (I71-22)

It is obvious that the primary purpose of the mountain has turned from snow sports to summer amusement – which violates the 2011 act. Snow King could counter our observation by opening their books to demonstrate exactly what the primary purpose of the resort is and is planned to be after build-out. (I160-1)

Response: Three points should be noted here. First, SAROEa is intended to provide these diverse recreational opportunities to the American public, not just to the local community. Second, SAROEa provides our direction for dealing with permitted ski areas – enhancing our public investment in them – rather than focusing on the local community setting. Third, SAROEa is clear in defining what non-winter recreational amenities are appropriate, and based on our review we believe the proposed action complies with this direction. Beyond that, the EIS may address alternatives with varying types of recreational opportunities to reduce the resource impacts of the proposed action.

Other commenters asked how the proposed summer activities met the goal of SAROEa to connect people with National Forest resources (I52-4, I64-7, I69-1c, I71-2, I218-7, I218-71, I238-13, I309-14, I333-9). Examples include:

I urge your agency to keep asking, to what extent, this enormous expansion on a national forest:
1. Encourages the enjoyment of nature - not just encourages outdoor recreation. 2. Harmonizes with the natural environment. (I15-6)

How does their overall proposal, particularly the addition of recreational amenities such as a zip line and downhill mountain bike runs help connect visitors with the natural environment? (I56-2)

Response: Again, our review indicates that this proposed action complies with SAROEa direction regarding appropriate summer activities at permitted ski areas. Zip lines are specifically identified as appropriate, as long as other requirements are met.

A commenter also suggested that the proposal be reviewed in the context of the Framework for Sustainable Recreation (I71-53).

Response: Our review indicates that this proposed action is consistent with the principles outlined in our 2010 Framework for Sustainable Recreation.

Specific Elements of the Proposed Action

Commenters questioned the purpose and need for specific elements of the proposed action, including:

Expansion:

The primary justification provided for expanding the permit area to the east and west by a total of 156 additional acres is to provide more skiing opportunities for beginner, novice, and low intermediate skiers. As noted, however, only 37.7, or 24%, of the additional acres and 39% of the total new run acres, would be occupied by these ability levels. This does not appear to justify the full expansion of 156 acres, and I am concerned that this is unnecessary. (I333-14)

Are the stated needs for the proposed expansion areas based solely on needs related to snow sports? Could these stated needs be achieved within the current footprint? (O4-27)

I do not understand why Snow King is asking for expansion both East and West when it has permitted, undeveloped land to the South. (I378-3)

Response: As indicated in the scoping notice, accommodating the proposed access road/skiway is the primary aspect of purpose and need for the front-side expansions. Without it, very little of the proposed

action would be feasible. That said, the road would also create opportunities for expansion of the lower-ability-level ski terrain that would allow a broader range of skiers to utilize Snow King.

Access road/skiway: (I302-7, I308-4, I270-9), and these specific examples:

This road is being excessively designed to cater to cement trucks, not recreation. (I270-8)

The proposed (new) road cut is being partially justified by offering it as a beginner/novice way down from the top. But it will be nearly 3 miles and narrow (16 feet) which may be fatiguing to the very individuals that it purportedly is serving. (I259-6)

Response: Based on our review, the proposed access road/skiway meets the criteria to accommodate the full range of proposed functions for construction and maintenance of proposed summit facilities as well providing an easy way down for beginners in the event the gondola is not available.

Gondola:

[The Gondola] seems tied in with the front side road expansion, and the very large restaurant. (I36-6a)

Response: Yes, it is, as described in detail in the scoping notice.

Summit beginner area:

Operating lifts/carpets in this area [ski school and lifts B and C] would surely not make any revenue on all days with slightly inclement weather and hurt long term viability and affordability of the ski area. (I270-21, I299-22)

How windy is it at the summit and how often? What is the wind chill temperature pattern up there? Would a windy subzero ski day be a positive national forest recreational experience for novice skiers? (I238-5)

Placing first-time beginners and a ski school headquarters at the top of the mountain is a very poor idea due to the fact that most days up there are not sunny, and typically feature exposure to wind and blowing snow. (I270-18)

Response: Both the BTNF permit administrators and the permittee have long experience with conditions on the summit and agree that this is the best place to establish the needed teaching center and associated beginner terrain.

Snowmaking: (I270-48, I299-50), and this specific example:

Expanded snowmaking is unnecessary for ski race training, because racing is on the already-snowmaking-covered Cougar Lift. The locations of new proposed snowmaking seemingly go beyond locations that are suitable for ski race training... Expanded snowmaking coverage on the upper mountain may be unnecessary, as the upper mountain often receives snow while the lower mountain receives rain. (O4-2)

Response: As explained in the scoping notice, the proposed snowmaking expansion is intended to provide more consistent, season-long snow coverage over a wider area. The trend toward warmer winters with localized reductions in snowfall are also a consideration. See responses below under Physical and Biological Environment/Climate Change and Snow Quantity.

Hiking trails:

New hiking trail construction is proposed, but this is not included in the Purpose and Need. Is there a need for more hiking trails, given the abundant trails on the surrounding NFS lands? I do not see a need for this. (I333-13)

Response: The purpose and need statement in the scoping notice does not identify specific projects but rather categories of desired recreational opportunities. The rationales for the proposed trails are clearly spelled out in the description of the proposed action.

Resort Viability

Commenters addressed the need for the proposed action relative to Snow King's viability from several perspectives (I8-5, I59-3, I70-1, I71-54, I309-20). Specific comments included:

There is substantial risk that the proposal will not result in a self-sustaining hill and might result in substantial expanses of unused and/or abandoned terrain and infrastructure if revenues aren't sufficient to offset the considerable construction and operating costs. (I129-7)

What if this proposal fails? ... And what will happen if the plan is abandoned? Is there a rehabilitation stipulation that this entire infrastructure will be returned to its natural state? ... Has a bond been offered for recovery of the habitat if the plan fails? (O8-8)

Expanding Snow King's avenues to regenerate revenue is also important in ensuring the sustainability of the mountain well into the future. (I37-3)

Absent adoption of the plan with approval of components that will permit Snow King to remain economically viable now and into the future, Snow King will fail. (I167-2)

Response: The economic performance of Snow King is not a Forest Service matter and will not be addressed in the EIS. However, a viable master development plan is a requirement of ski area special use permits, in accordance with the Ski Area Permit Act of 1986. We reviewed Snow King's MDP and determined that it met this requirement prior to accepting it and initiating this NEPA review of elements involving NFS resources. Our intent in issuing this special use permit is to provide the public with diverse recreational opportunities on the BTNF and supporting our local community, and those objectives are unlikely to change. Beyond that, when special use permits are terminated, the permittee is responsible for removal of facilities from the permit area (FSM 2700 – Special Uses Administration, 2716.2[3]).

Proposed Action

General

Several comments addressed the overall proposed action:

I urge you to identify the gaps in information presented in the current proposal. (I15-4)

Some noted differences between the MDP and the proposed action described in the scoping notice (I217-1, I68-2, I218-1, I218-80, I248-10, I302-6).

Response: The proposed action was revised following our acceptance of Snow King's MDP based on review and discussion involving the BTNF, cooperating agencies, Snow King, and the public. The scoping notice described the resulting proposed action.

Commenters asked about the carrying capacity of specific elements of the proposed action and of the resort following implementation of the proposed action (O4-37, I192-4, I302-28).

Response: Snow King's MDP includes calculations of various capacities, including the overall capacity of the resort currently and following the proposed action. These figures will be included in the EIS as necessary to complete the analysis of environmental effects.

Several commenters asked about the operating hours of the proposed facilities (I309-9, I302-25, I386-3).

Response: The EIS will not cite operating hours unless necessary to complete the analysis of environmental effects. Operating hours are established annually in Snow King's summer and or winter operating plans.

Commenters asked details regarding Snow King's finances, financial and contractual arrangements with the town and other entities, and coordination with other development plans (I72-4, I105-2, I129-5).

Response: Financial information is generally not relevant to analysis of environmental effects, and it is often confidential. To the extent that such information is necessary to address the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, it will be included in the analysis.

The proposal could lead to Snow King becoming a large summer amusement park where our Town Hill is covered in roller coasters, top-to-bottom noisy ziplines, and a massive restaurant complex on the narrow ridgetop, making our summer gridlock even worse. (O4-9)

Response: Any development beyond the current proposed action would require Forest Service acceptance of a proposal from Snow King and NEPA review.

The Snow King expansion plans are, obviously, much more destructive than they expect to have approved and much more than they actually need. One can only assume that they put in many options that they expect to have deleted from the final action. (I1-2)

Response: The EIS will disclose the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, and the responsible official will consider those effects in determining which elements to authorize and what mitigation to require.

A commenter asked how the proposed facilities would be maintained (I56-8, I56-11o).

Response: The EIS will identify and assess maintenance activities with the potential to affect the environment.

A commenter asked about ADA compliance of the proposed facilities (I218-45, I218-46).

Response: Accessibility will be guided by the Forest Service's 2016 *Accessibility Guidebook for Ski Areas Operating on Public Lands*. Compliance will be ensured through a pre-construction engineering review.

Specific Elements

Access Road/Skiway

The existing road would still be necessary to access the top of Elk and Grizzly from the Summit Lift, and to traverse East towards Rafferty from the top of the Cougar Lift. Having two separate roads within close proximity will totally compromise safe, fun skiing, and the potential for race events on Elk and Grizzly. (I270-13)

Response: Skier access to Elk and Grizzly from the summit would be maintained, as would access to and from the top of Cougar as long as that lift remains in place. As part of the proposed action, all unnecessary roads and trails on the front side would be abandoned and restored.

And what is the access for? Will there be traffic summer and winter up and down the road in daytime and nighttime? Diesel snow cats in winter and construction trucks in summer? (I64-9)

Response: As described in the scoping notice, the road would provide access for construction, operations, maintenance, and emergency services. This would involve some level of year-round, day and night vehicle traffic.

Snow King's lower mountain road (private land) is unsuitable for construction vehicles and needs to be rerouted ASAP before any further construction projects. This should be clearly stated prior to any approvals... The TOJ should allow SK to start building this portion of road as soon as possible, which will also improve their beginner ski terrain. (I302-17, I302-18)

This most heavily used portion of their access road [existing access road below Rafferty midstation] MUST be addressed properly before any future projects take place. By doing so, this

will solve plenty of SK's safety issues, reduce the risk of accidents and liability, and drastically improve the mountain for beginners. (I315-6)

Response: This portion of the existing road is on private land, outside the scope of this EIS. However, Snow King's MDP does include plans to regrade that portion of the road to achieve a more appropriate grade.

The slope on the upper mountain is much steeper than on the lower mountain. The proposed road is supposed to be built to accommodate large truck traffic (cement trucks?) That would require a much wider road base, and result in much taller road cuts (estimated to 30 feet tall?) on the uphill side. The wider the road, the taller the cut banks on the uphill side. (I407-5)

Response: The scoping notice describes the road dimensions, noting that the running surface width would be an average of 16 feet, and the disturbance area due to cut and fill would be an average of 90 feet.

So, while I may be missing something in their plans, the new road will require a substantial amount of new piping and electrical improvements to be of any use at all and I don't see that in their proposal. (I129-11)

How will SKM/ BTNF be able to guarantee a leaky pipe won't cause a costly eyesore on this road, with extended closures due to instability and repair? (I302-16)

Response: As noted in the scoping notice, there is already water and power at the summit, and a new septic line would be developed to the summit area, collocated with the buried snowmaking line running up Exhibition run. No utilities are proposed in the new access road/skiway under this proposed action.

One major discrepancy in SK's proposed road/ "beginner trail" is the fact that it does not feed back to the base of the Summit Lift. (I315-1)

Since the "beginner road" will direct these users towards the Rafferty side of the ski area, will inexperienced users then be expected to walk across the base area's parking lots to go ride the much faster and "more comfortable" lift, in order to ski the longest run? (I315-3)

Also, there should be an easier way down the steep part of the bottom, it gets icy and is really hard sometimes. (I420-2)

Response: As described in the scoping notice, the lower end of the proposed access road/skiway would tie into the existing road and run network near the northern boundary of the current permit area, providing skier access back to the gondola base.

Gondola

What are the plans for skier safety if the gondola is closed due to weather and people are stranded on top taking a ski lesson? How will they get down? (I218-33)

Response: As explained in the scoping notice, a primary purpose of the proposed access road/skiway is to provide emergency egress from the summit if the gondola is out of service.

Summit Beginner Area and Building

How realistic is it to develop ski runs/winter activities on often windy south facing slopes which are already thinly covered for much of the winter? (I238-3)

Response: Both the BTNF permit administrators and the permittee have long experience with conditions on the summit and believe that this is the best place to establish the needed teaching center and associated beginner terrain.

There is insufficient space for a detachable lift's terminal on the Summit Ridgeline. (I270-45, I299-46)

Response: Preliminary review of Snow King’s proposal indicates that there is, and pre-construction engineering review will confirm it.

[Summit building] I do not trust tourists or SKMR LLC to practice proper food storage etiquette, especially since they have not installed bearproof containers anywhere on their property, and have become notorious for leaving full garbage cans outside throughout the base area and at the Rafferty mid-mountain station. (I299-37)

Response: Snow King’s permit requires them to comply with applicable state and local laws and regulations, including those involving food storage and use of bear-proof garbage containers.

Bike and Hiking Trails

E-Bikes & Downhill Bikes: If lift-serviced downhill trails / are added to the inbounds area of Snow King, it is my hope that downhill bikes and e-bikes will not be allowed to traverse the existing trail network located out Snow King's boundaries and within the Greater Snow King area. (I375-7)

Response: Management of lift-served, downhill bike traffic will be determined in Snow King’s annual summer operation plan. E-bike use of existing Forest Service trails designated as non-motorized is currently prohibited.

Will these [new lifts] will be used for mountain bikers? (I71-25)

Response: The proposed gondola and lift A will be used to transport mountain bikers.

The south side area has been designated an open mountain biking “zone” ... does this mean they can ride anywhere? Will jumps and other features be constructed? (I71-43)

Response: No, “bike park” development, including a teaching area for basic skills and a system of various types of bike trails is envisioned but has not yet been designed. It may include jumps or other features. The effects analysis will identify any environmental constraints on the site that would need to be considered in final design.

It is not clear from the maps provided; specifically figure 4, whether uphill mountain biking has been included in the improvements. (I160-4)

Response: No new uphill mountain biking infrastructure is identified in the scoping notice or included in this proposed action. If an alternative is developed that includes new cross-country bike trails, the EIS will analyze and disclose the impacts.

Are any of the proposed trails intended to be multi-use. (I218-59)

Response: No, the proposed trails would be designed and managed for either hiking or mountain biking trails.

Which of the existing trails on the Snow King face will be retained? (I218-61)

Response: Existing trails authorized by the BTNF would be retained. Some or all user-created trails would be abandoned and restored.

The back side mountain bike “zone” is incompatible with the purported objective for the yurt installation, to allow people to experience a quasi-backcountry setting. It is unlikely to provide that illusion in close proximity to a bike park with the associated shouting, infrastructure, etc. (I218-65)

Response: As described in the scoping notice, the camp would be ADA compliant, include nine yurts, and offer a wide range of summer and winter activities, including mountain biking. This level of development and activity may not meet some definitions of “backcountry” would contrast sharply with the front side of the mountain while being readily accessible from Jackson.

Has a “jump” trail ever been proposed for mountain bikers? (I302-10)

Response: Flow trails, and other designations that include constructed or natural features, are a common component of the mountain bike infrastructure being permitted by the Forest Service at many mountain resorts.

Zip Line

But the zipline needs to be researched and reported on more. (I97-4)

Will this zipline continue to be “packaged” with a gondola? (I309-17)

How could zipline riders safely slowdown from 70mph to 0mph in such a short and steep deceleration area? (I309-21)

What kind of zipline is prohibited on public land? Is there a precedent, have any been denied? (I302-4)

Response: See responses above under Process/Purpose and Need/Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act, which provides for authorization of zip lines as long a number of conditions included in that law are met. Our review indicates that this proposal meets those conditions. The technology for zip lines is well developed, and they are an increasingly common feature at ski areas in the U.S. and around the world.

Ticket Prices

A number of commenters asked about ticket-price changes associated with the proposed action (O4-4, I71-15, I218-38, I270-20, I270-61, I299-21, I309-6).

Response: Ticket pricing is determined by the permittee’s business model and is not subject to Forest Service authority.

Public Access Fees

Several commenters questioned Snow King’s charging the public for uphill access (O4-7, I114-12, I137-3, I420-3, I31-2).

Response: It is Forest Service policy to allow permitted ski areas to charge for public use of infrastructure that the ski area pays to construct and maintain. Snow King’s uphill access routes fall in that category.

Miscellaneous

I would propose a parking garage be built in the existing lot below the event center. (I160-3)

Response: This analysis may identify a need for additional parking (see Human Environment/Traffic and Parking/Parking below), but this proposal would be outside the authority of the Forest Service.

...we understand from public statements that Snow King may ask future permission to drill a well to supply water for snowmaking – but that it is not currently part of this analysis. Please include potential well sites and their impacts in this Environmental Impact Statement (O4-36)

Response: A new well would be a matter between Snow King and appropriate state and local authorities. This EIS will address whether additional snowmaking water demand would result in a significant environmental impact. See Human Environment/Utilities below.

In the past, Snow King has led horse rides along Snow King, both inbounds and in the Greater Snow King area. Thankfully this use has not occurred in a number of years. Given the number of runners, hikers, dog walkers and mountain bikers currently enjoying the Greater Snow King trail system, large groups of equine riders are no longer compatible for this area. I ask that horse outfitter / trail rides not be included as a by-right use for the area. (I375-8)

Response: This proposed action does not include any change in use categories of existing trails. Equestrian use is not proposed for any new trails.

If excess dirt occurs due to development, how will it be disposed of or removed from site? (I56-11n)

Response: We anticipate that any surplus dirt would be used for fill material as the project is implemented. If not, there is demand for fill material in the area.

In regard to the “temporary” ski patrol building at the top of Cougar, what is meant by temporary? A building sounds permanent. If this is meant to be moved at some point, where? (I218-39)

Response: As described in the scoping notice, it would be a pre-built, pull-on type structure with no foundation required, and it would be removed in the summer.

If glading and tree removal are part of a 2015 vegetation management plan already in place, does it take the adoption of the new MDP to begin implementation? (I218-69)

Response: Some elements of the Vegetation Management Plan have been, and will continue to be, implemented in the context of approved summer operating plans. Since glading and clearing are integral parts of this proposed action, it is appropriate to address them in this EIS and reference the vegetation plan as appropriate.

Having two separate roads within close proximity will totally compromise safe, fun skiing, and the potential for race events on Elk and Grizzly. (I299-14)

Response: Access to and from the top of Cougar will be necessary as long as that lift remains in place. However, as part of the proposed action, all unnecessary roads and trails on the front side would be abandoned and restored.

The previous snowmaking project did not allow snowmaking/water pipes to be laid horizontally across the hill. Why would it be allowed if there is a new road, clearcut trails, and increased snowmaking/runoff? (I302-29)

Response: In the past, freezing water lines were an issue, and horizontal lines did not drain well. With current snowmaking technology, this is no longer a substantial issue.

One reason presented for the expanded snowmaking was to allow for early November opening for ski race training. Are temperatures cold enough to make snow in early November? (I333-5)

Response: This is an unpredictable variable, but temperatures are often sufficient. Snow King started making snow in early November this year.

Nowhere did I see a need identified for increased parking or for increased employee housing. These are known needs that must be identified and added to the proposed action and alternatives. (I333-8)

Response: As discussed below under Human Environment/Socioeconomic/Employee Housing and Traffic and Parking, the EIS will address impacts on these parameters to determine the potential for significant environmental impacts. If such impacts are identified, the EIS will suggest mitigation.

This is an expansion – or an enlargement-- of the permit area, it is not an “adjustment”. Please use clear, accurate, language to describe proposed actions. (I333-10)

Response: Both “expansion” and “adjustment” are used in project documents, and the meaning of both seems clear.

Alternatives

General

This issue drew more comments than most. In general terms, several commenters identified a wide range of potential effects that should be considered in alternative formulation (A4-1, A5-2, I72-9, I222-1). Examples include:

...I encourage you to develop a suite of alternatives that balances the management direction set by the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan with pertinent state, county and local regulations. Doing so will ensure the selection of a final action that contributes to community prosperity and provides high-quality developed recreation facilities for many to enjoy in the years to come. (A2-1)

The Town recommends that you provide a variety of alternatives that attempt to balance these common values [from Comprehensive Plan: Ecosystem Stewardship, Growth Management, and Quality of Life] as your review process moves forward. (A5-4)

Additionally, the Town-commissioned Snow King Stakeholder's Group identified the following list of interests that we think should be considered and balanced during the review of alternatives:

- *Conservation of wildlife habitat and wildlands*
- *Economic viability of Snow King Mountain recreation and resort area*
- *Diversity of year-round recreational opportunities for diverse user groups*
- *Community accessibility and affordability*
- *Preservation of the cultural, environmental, and historical character of Jackson*
- *Prioritization of community safety*
- *Availability of high-quality facilities*
- *Minimized impacts to the surrounding areas*
- *Consideration of impacts to infrastructure and services, both positive and negative*
- *Balanced impacts of development and tourism on the community, both positive and negative, that can serve as a model for others*
- *Consideration of community-wide educational opportunities*
- *Consideration for holding events*
- *Broadened appeal of the offerings and amenities at Snow King Mountain*
- *Clear and concise guiding documents to clarify rights, responsibilities, and accountability for all parties involved in the future of Snow King Mountain*
- *Maintained and enhanced world-class training and facilities*
- *Prioritization of environmental sustainability (A5-8)*

Response: In accordance with NEPA, Forest Service regulations for its implementation, and relevant agency policy, the EIS will consider a range of alternatives to the proposed action. Alternatives may be identified through scoping, or internal, interdisciplinary review, or collaboration with our cooperating agencies. Alternatives carried into in-depth analysis will be those that meet the stated purpose and need for action while reducing potentially significant adverse environmental effects identified by our analysis. Cooperation with pertinent state, county, and local plans will be an important consideration in developing and analyzing alternatives and ultimately in choosing among them.

Expansion Alternatives

No-Expansion

Several commenters requested consideration of a no-expansion or “net-zero” alternative with focus on improving infrastructure within the current boundary (A4-1, A5-7, I-18-5, I25-1a, I36-1, I36-4, I89-3, I101-

5, I109-1, I151-1, I216-5, I218-73, I219-2, I222-1, I371-11, I284-9, I212-9, I264-2, I129-6, I299-53, I270-52, I299-56). Examples include:

This alternative [zero net increase in acreage] would have the added benefits of eliminating the harmful impacts from the proposed road, which would have serious negative effects on neighboring wildlife and habitat, the visual aesthetics of Jackson Hole. (I25-2)

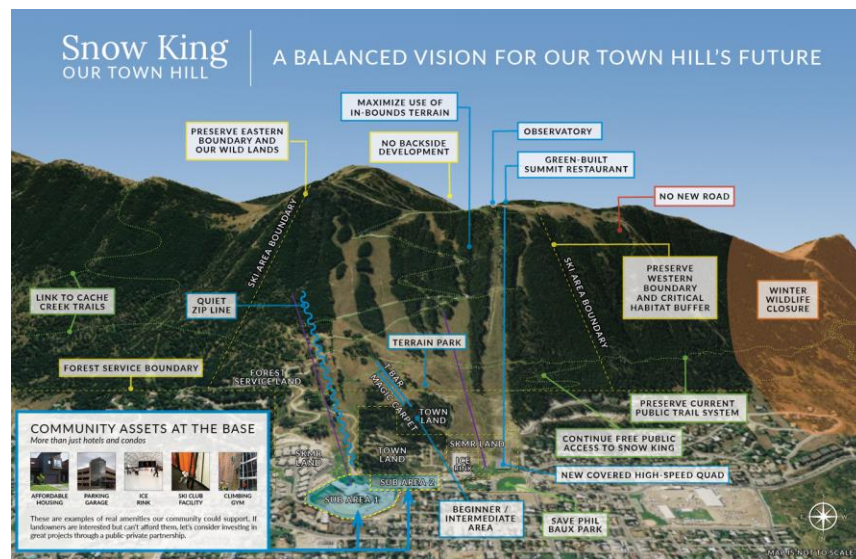
...don't allow the developers to bulldoze and fragment a massive amount of wildlife habitat to the east (into Cache Creek drainage), west (right up against a winter wildlife closure), or south (into sunny slopes with the best forage) Instead, help them see how they can improve terrain within the existing front-side footprint. My understanding is that the south side of the King includes important elk calving grounds as well as a healthy raptor population. (I86-1)

...with regards to expansion, there is plenty of work that could be done to existing skier runs to make them more enjoyable and a better attraction. For example, the lower half of bear claw is un skiable in a low snow year due to small trees and deadfall. This run could be cleared heavily, and it would be a great top to bottom run... SKMR should improve the existing ski runs before cutting new ones. (I114-4)

Response: The EIS will address a no-action alternative, as required by NEPA, and any other alternatives that meet the requirements outlined in the preceding response.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance provided a fleshed out no-expansion “balanced vision” alternative as well as a no-expansion “wildlife alternative.” They are as follows:

Balanced vision alternative: We worked in coordination with community members to develop alternative improvements and development within the existing footprint that achieve the Purpose and Need without expanding into valuable wildlife habitat and sacrificing important aspects of our community character. [O4-48; see letter for details]



Wildlife alternative: Snow King Mountain is home to valuable wildlife habitat that should be considered at a high level when analyzing alternatives to the proposed project. A wildlife-friendly alternative would prioritize protecting wildlife and improving wildlife habitat and connectivity. It should include no boundary expansion, no development on the backside, no yurt or chairlift on the backside, recreation development that is sensitive to wildlife, and new closures for critical wildlife habitat. (O4-49; see letter for details)

Response: We will consider these alternatives, and elements they comprise, and carry them into in-depth analysis if they meet the criteria outlined above.

No South Expansion

One commenter suggested no south or back side expansion (I56-11a, I56-11b).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. Note that the proposed southern expansion area is already part of Snow King's special use permit area.

No West Expansion

One commenter suggested an alternative with no west expansion (I373-2).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. See responses regarding access road/skiway alternatives below.

Access Road/Skiway Alternatives

This element of the project also drew many comments, including several alternative suggestions. While some were general requests that a range of alternative alignments be considered (A4-1, I25-9, I56-11c), most were specific, including:

No New Road

Several commenters suggested an alternative with no new road, generally in conjunction with improving the existing road and down-sizing the summit building (A5-7, I97-5, I215-4, I218-21, I218-24).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. Note that the existing road does need meet the need for an "easy way down" from the summit or from the top of Rafferty lift.

Use of Leeks Canyon Road

Many commenters suggested using the existing Leeks Canyon road, with improvements as necessary, to access the summit (A5-7, I17-2, I25-9, I56-11d, I58-3, I114-6, I198-3, I235-2, I240-1, I281-5, I286-1, I287-7, I391-2, O1-5, I72-7, I170-6, I282-13, I284-7, I371-8, I218-21, I270-14, I250-2).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. Note that the Leek's Canyon road does need meet the need for an "easy way down" from the summit and crosses private land not owned by Snow King.

Other Alignments

One commenter suggested extending Slow Trail up to Scott's Ridge (I41-1).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, Snow King considered this alternative and determined that an alignment at less than 10 percent grade could not be achieved.

Some suggested an alignment within the current permit boundary, including options identified in past master plans (I371-9, I69-4).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, note discussion in scoping notice of such alternatives, concluding that alternative routes within the existing permit boundary did not provide appropriate grades for both construction access and a novice skiway, and would increase the amount of ground disturbance.

One commenter asked for an alternative that included limiting uses of the access road/skiway and identification of avalanche control measures to be used where it crosses new terrain (A4-1).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. Note that motorized vehicle use of the proposed access road/skiway would be limited to the purposes outlined in the scoping notice. See response below under Human Environment/Safety/Avalanche.

Some suggested using Leeks Canyon Road for construction and improving the existing front-side road as a skiway (I99-6, I299-15).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, note that the existing road does need meet the need for an “easy way down” from the summit or from the top of Rafferty lift.

Gondola Alternatives

Several commenters requested an alternative gondola alignment, particularly one that shifted the bottom terminal out of Phil Baux Park, particularly to the location of the current Summit lift bottom terminal or closer to the Cougar terminal (I18-4, I114-6, I171-2, I188-1, I264-4, I334-3, I371-10, I373-3, I282-2, I218-31).

Some suggested a bottom terminal on Snow King’s private land (O1-2, I170-3).

Response: We will consider these alternatives and carry them into in-depth analysis if they meet the criteria outlined above.

One suggested including a mid-station on the gondola to provide easy access to the lower slopes (I17-4).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, the given the steepness of the slope, the amount of earthmoving necessary to construct a midstation would likely be prohibitive.

One commenter suggested removing Cougar lift if the gondola is approved to decrease “clutter” on the lower slopes (I17-4).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above.

Some suggested a high-speed quad, perhaps with covered chairs, rather than a gondola (I36-6b, I101-2, I71-24, I218-34).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, a high-speed quad would not accommodate non-skiing riders, diverse weather, and night use as well as a gondola.

Some suggested a tram rather than a gondola (I299-11, I299-47, I270-11, I270-46).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, no clear benefits are noted in the comments, and trams typically require longer wait times, lower capacity, and higher cost.

Lift A Alternatives

Commenters suggested a shorter T-bar lift, without snowmaking, used only when natural snow was sufficient, with existing roads providing a return route to the “Saddle” (I299-62, I270-60).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, note that a T-bar would not accommodate mountain bikes, and it would not provide access to the desired beginner and intermediate terrain. See discussion of the need for snowmaking in the scoping notice.

Beginner Area Alternatives

Some commenters suggested locating the beginner area in Rafferty pod or elsewhere on the lower front side rather than on the summit, particularly because of concerns about wind, other inclement weather, and snow accumulation at the summit (I25-3, I71-17, I299-24I299-27, I270-23, I270-26). Examples include:

Analysis of the feasibility of development of a beginner's area at the summit (use by young children and families considering wind conditions and snow loading at summit) versus development of such at the base of the north side. (I56-11e)

...the Rafferty Area has always been SK's most ideal and convenient location for beginners and could still be vastly improved. Since a large portion of this area lies on private land, I am concerned that the BTNF may be overlooking this solution as a "preferred alternative" to the ski areas "needs". (I315-5)

Some suggested using the Turnpike run, or on vacant land behind the Snow King Resort Hotel, rather than the summit (I299-25, I299-26, I270-24, I270-25).

Response: We will consider these alternatives and carry them into in-depth analysis if they meet the criteria outlined above. However, as noted in the scoping notice, the summit area offers more appropriate topography, a longer season with good snow conditions, and better separation from more advanced skiers than lower-elevation, front-side options.

Summit Building Alternatives

Some commenters suggested a smaller summit building, including an upgraded Panorama House (I36-7, I270-39, I371-6, I72-5, I218-35, I299-41, I304-5).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, note the rationale for the proposed facility presented in the scoping notice, and the deteriorated condition of the Panorama House.

Bike Park Alternatives

Some commenters suggested a front-side bike park, perhaps on private land in the Rafferty area, due to terrain and slope angles and to protect existing cross-country trails and other resources from overuse (I216-2, I215-3, I311-6, O2-5).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above. However, note that one objective in siting the mountain bike zone on the south side is to avoid congestion on the front side.

One commenter suggested restricting the feature trails on the front side to the lower portion of the mountain to keep less disturbance on the upper slopes (I218-72).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above.

Zip Line Alternatives

An alignment closer to the Alpine slide, in the area currently supporting summer activities, was suggested (I222-6, I222-7, I378-5, I160-7, I407-8, I215-3, I301-9, I309-7, I309-13, I334-2).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above.

A multi-segment zip tour was suggested as a quieter, more nature-oriented alternative (I320-4, I248-6).

Response: We will consider this alternative and carry it into in-depth analysis if it meets the criteria outlined above.

Planetarium Alternative

One commenter suggested an alternative site on East or West Gros Ventre Butte (I71-26).

Response: These locations would not complement or be supported by proposed development on the summit of Snow King.

Lynx Alternative

One commenter spelled out an alternative based on reducing potential effects on Canada lynx:

Due to the potential impacts to lynx and lynx habitat as a result of implementation of the proposed recreation activities, we recommend the EIS include at least one alternative implementing the following the NRLMD human use guidelines for developed recreation: HU G1 (maintaining inter-trail islands), HU G2 (providing lynx nocturnal foraging opportunities), HU G3 (lynx movement and habitat effectiveness), and HU G10 (maintaining security habitat when expanding ski areas and trails). Adopting these guidelines would ensure the proposed activities are designed to minimize the fragmentation of lynx foraging and denning habitat. Reducing the number of new graded/cleared areas, ski runs, bike trails, hiking trails, and buildings within currently contiguous lynx foraging and denning habitats would also reduce the fragmentation of lynx habitat. Alternatively, these Project-related activities could be moved to areas that do not contain lynx habitat. In addition, we recommend the Forest minimize the footprint of new lighted, night ski areas, especially in or adjacent to blocks of contiguous lynx habitat to give lynx the opportunity to forage at night. By implementing these measures, the Forest will appreciably reduce the impacts to lynx, lynx denning and foraging habitat, as well as, designated lynx critical habitat within in the Project area. (A7-2)

Response: The EIS and any associated biological assessment will address lynx impacts in accordance with established lynx management protocols, and NRLMD direction will be addressed as appropriate regardless of the alternative.

Alternative Management

Some suggested that the Town take over management of the resort and design their own, taxpayer-funded improvements (I138-3, I314-1).

Response: Snow King operates on National Forest System land, under Forest Service special use permit, issued to the current permittee. As a result, this alternative is outside the scope of this EIS.

Cumulative Effects

Only one comment specifically addressed cumulative effects:

We would like to see full environmental analysis of not only the project components on their own but also of the cumulative effects if some or all of the project components are implemented. For example, what will the cumulative impact be for wildlife if Snow King expands its boundaries and develops into critical habitat on the backside, and at the same time, the important winter moose and deer habitat in Karns Meadow is developed with a lighted ski trail, as is currently within the written easement for the meadow. (O4-40)

Response: In accordance with NEPA and Forest Service regulations for its implementation, the EIS will address direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action and alternatives, including the cited example if it proves relevant.

Mitigation

General

One commenter suggested that other resorts be consulted for effective mitigation measures (O4-50), including the following measures:

Examples include securing off-site land easements, funding restoration and conservation efforts across the valley, or, every acre of new development could be mitigated by taking away two acres from another part of the permit area. (O4-51)

Response: In accordance with NEPA and Forest Service regulations for its implementation, the EIS will identify ways to avoid, minimize, or offset any identified adverse environmental effects. Agency experience with other permitted resorts will be tapped as appropriate.

Air Pollution

Mitigation of air quality impacts was also noted (I15-5).

Response: As noted above, the EIS will specify mitigation measures for identified adverse effects. See Physical and Biological Environment/Air Quality below.

Erosion and Landslide

A commenter asked if erosion control was addressed in the proposal (O8-10).

Response: The proposal does not discuss erosion control plans, but erosion control is an established requirement for permitted ski areas, based on Forest Service as well as state and local government requirements. The EIS will address disturbed-site restoration and erosion control measures. See Physical and Biological Environment/Water, Soils, and Watershed/Erosion and Soil Stability below.

Commenters suggested that Snow King should post bond for damages, and specifically to cover potential landslide and erosion damage to downhill property (I56-12, I270-5, I299-7, I302-15).

Response: This would be a legal matter outside the scope of this EIS.

A commenter asked that plans for the access road/skiway be stamped by a geotechnical engineer prior to approval (I160-9)

Response: The BTNF will require an engineered plan, subject to agency engineering review, prior to construction authorization.

A commenter questioned Snow King's past erosion-control efforts and asked for assurance that measures required for the proposed projects be enforced (I333-16).

Response: The record of decision issued by the BTNF will specify mitigation requirements, and the agency permit administrator will be responsible for enforcing them.

A commenter suggested that the National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands, Volume 1, be consulted for erosion-control BMPs (I333-19).

Response: This document will be consulted as a source of erosion-control practices.

A commenter said that alternative methods such as cable or helicopter logging should be considered to reduce erosion hazard on steep slopes, per state silviculture BMP no. 8 (I333-20).

Response: These methods will be considered if the analysis indicates that they would be appropriate.

A commenter asked that Snow King properly restore roads and trails that are closed as a result of this proposal (O2-6).

Response: Restoration of unnecessary roads and trails is part of the proposed action.

Vegetation

A commenter suggested planting trees in currently cleared areas to offset any loss of forest cover resulting from the proposed development (I137-1).

Response: This practice will be considered if the analysis indicates it would be appropriate. See Physical and Biological Environment/Vegetation/Forest Clearing below.

Invasive Plants

Some commenters were concerned about reducing introduction and spread of invasive plants (O4-1, O2-7, I333-22).

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact, and mitigation will be specified for any such impacts. See Physical and Biological Environment/Vegetation/Noxious Weeds below.

Wildlife

One commenter suggested that new cross-country bike trails be developed in the south expansion area to see if adverse wildlife effects could be avoided. If so, plans for the bike park could proceed, perhaps with seasonal closures (I114-7).

Response: This measure will be considered if the analysis indicates it would be appropriate. See Physical and Biological Environment/Wildlife below.

A commenter asked if new wildlife closures or other use restrictions were being considered outside the proposed permit area (I302-33).

Response: No such measures have been proposed.

Scenic

Commenters concerned about the scenic impact of the summit building suggested that it be built in accordance with Forest Service guidelines, be a single story, and employ green technology and modern lighting technology (I69-8, I218-58, I302-19)

Commenters suggested using more natural colors for on-mountain infrastructure than Snow King's bright blue official color (I299-44, I270-43).

Response: All facilities constructed at the resort would be subject to the Forest Service's *Built Environment Image Guide* and its specific direction for the Rocky Mountain Province. This direction addresses siting, architecture, materials, colors, landscaping and other aspects involving the fit of structures with the natural environment. The EIS will incorporate this direction in our analysis and incorporate these concerns. See Human Environment/Scenic below.

Light Pollution

Mitigation of light pollution and "dark sky" impacts were a concern (I15-5), for example:

Specifically, using new technology for new lighting, and to upgrade existing lighting was suggested (I218-58)

Additional lighting is critical for the enjoyment and safety of the many kids who ski there on weekday evenings after school (the lights should be off at 7:30pm each day and should not impact astronomic observation at the summit). (I75-3)

Response: As described in the scoping notice, Snow King has been replacing old lighting technology for several years to increase lighting on the snow surface and decrease light pollution, and the proposed action would carry that approach into the night skiing expansion. Any further mitigation suggested by the analysis will be identified in the EIS. See Human Environment/Scenic/Lighting and Light Pollution below.

Noise

Many were concerned about reducing noise pollution, particularly noise caused by snowmaking and zip line riders (I15-5, I301-4, I301-10, I309-10).

One suggested snowmaking noise could be mitigated by turning the machines off for a few hours each night or by using less noisy machines than currently in use (I218-48, I218-49).

Response: These measures will be considered if the analysis indicates they would be appropriate. See Human Environment/Noise below.

Socioeconomic

Commenters suggested the following a priori mitigation for traffic and parking impacts and for employee housing:

Prior to any approval of on-mountain attractions, Snow King developers should be required to produce a detailed plan to deal with extra traffic and parking issues created by their development, as well as employee housing that is in line with our Town requirements. (O4-10)

Snow King should complete a significant employee housing facility before any new jobs are created, and before any significant construction projects begin. (I270-62)

Response: These measures will be considered if the analysis indicates they would be appropriate. See Human Environment/Socioeconomic/Employee Housing and Traffic and Parking below.

One commenter asked that Snow King commit to totally renewable energy sources (I114-10).

Response: We will pass this comment on to Snow King.

Recreation

Commenters suggested that other front-side mountain roads be abandoned and restored to offset the impact of the proposed access road/skiway on skier circulation and other resources (I375-3, I248-1).

Response: The proposed action includes abandoning and restoring all unnecessary front-side roads and trails. See Human Environment/Recreation below.

Some suggested a discounted season's pass for locals only (I114-11).

Response: As noted above under Process/Proposed Action/Specific Elements/Ticket Pricing, this is a matter for the ski area to address and is not under Forest Service authority.

A commenter asked how hikers and bikers would be re-routed from existing trails during construction (I302-32).

Response: All efforts will be made to avoid blocking existing trails during construction, but some temporary closures will be necessary. They will be announced through local media and signed at trailheads. See Human Environment/Recreation/Effect on Existing Recreation below.

A commenter asked if there were Forest Service protocols for building roads across steep ski runs (I302-11).

Response: Service roads crossing ski runs are a common occurrence at ski areas, and grading, rope lines, and signage have proven effective in avoiding safety issues. These measures are part of standard ski area management and will be in place at Snow King, as they are currently. See Human Environment/Recreation/Effect on Existing Ski Runs below.

Other commenters suggested specific mitigation measures:

We support the creation of a new summit trail to keep trail users off of the road where there will be increased construction traffic. (O2-2)

Commenters suggested capping recreational use at levels that would maintain tranquility and avoid resource impacts (I248-9, I299-43, I270-42).

A commenter suggested re-routing of Sink or Swim trail where it overlaps the proposed access road/skiway (O2-3).

Response: These measures will be considered in the EIS if the analysis indicates that they would be appropriate.

Safety

A commenter suggested an indoor smoking section in the summit building to reduce fire risk outside (I299-39).

A commenter suggested that a comprehensive fuels reduction plan may need to be prepared by the BTNF if increased fire hazard is identified (I333-3).

Response: These measures will be considered in the EIS if the analysis indicates that they would be appropriate.

Enforcement

A number of commenters asked for binding requirements to ensure adequate mitigation of some or all project impacts (I18-9, I99-8, I285-5, I286-5, I284-13, O4-11). Examples include:

Please analyze potential future impacts and require that Snow King commit in legally binding documents to fully mitigate all impacts. (I18-8)

Specific legal documents to clarify rights, delegate responsibilities, and ensure accountability for SKRMA. (I93-6, I219-6, I238-15, I270-63, I287-9)

Response: The responsible official's decision will specify mitigation requirements that are required as a condition of approval of the proposed action or an action alternative.

Compliance with Forest Service Direction

One commenter asked for figures on costs and revenues for Forest Service administration of Snow King's special use permit:

What will the cost to the Forest be for overseeing development of and the long-term operations of SKMR? (I56-13)

What will the anticipated lease revenue be to the Forest and how is that be determined? And how does that compare to the current fee revenue? And how much if any of that fee revenue stays on the Forest, and if so, how does it get distributed? (I56-14)

Response: Cost/benefit analysis is generally not part of the EIS process unless it is relevant to a choice among environmentally different alternatives. In this instance, it does not appear at this time to be relevant or important to the decision.

Another commenter questioned compliance with specific points of Forest Service direction:

What are the national forest objectives for this resort and its surroundings? How can the resort help meet those objectives in a way it doesn't now? (I218-8)

Response: The scoping notice provides fundamental Forest Plan direction under Purpose and Need, and the proposed action is being considered as a way of pursuing that direction.

I am concerned that the proposal as it now stands conflicts with FSM 4314. (I218-11)

Response: We assume this comment intends to reference FSM 2340, which was used in our screening of Snow King's proposal prior to accepting it for NEPA review. Our screening concluded that the

proposal complies with the cited direction. See Process/Purpose and Need/Ski Area Recreation Opportunity Enhancement Act above.

According to FSM 2343.14(1g), screening proposals for additional facilities includes the direction that “new activities and associated facilities must increase utilization of snow sports facilities and not require extensive new support facilities, such as parking lots, restaurants, and lifts.” The gondola is essentially a lift replacement, but the chair and T bar and carpet lifts on the back side comprise considerable new development, not to mention the ski school and other associated support facilities. (I218-32)

Response: All of the lifts and other infrastructure proposed for the southern expansion would be used for winter recreation. The cited direction applies to new facilities just for other seasonal recreation.

FSM 2340.3 states that the forest should deny proposals by the private sector to construct or provide outdoor recreation facilities and services on National Forest System lands if these facilities and services are reasonably available or could be provided elsewhere in the general vicinity. Restaurants, bars, meeting spaces and so on belong at the base (where they already are). (I218-37)

Response: The scoping notice outlines why the proposed facilities are sited where they are, as necessary to support winter and other seasonal recreation.

(FSM 4314.6 says “Allow temporary activities that rely on existing facilities, such as concerts or weddings, even if they are not necessarily interdependent with a National Forest setting, provided they are enhanced by it. Do not authorize new permanent facilities solely for these activities.” The in-ground wedding venue structure proposed, which is in my opinion poorly located relative to the other facilities on top, is contrary to this direction. (I218-40)

Response: The proposed wedding venue would be enhanced by the National Forest setting and would be supported by the gondola and summit infrastructure. In itself, the venue would be more a site than a facility, entailing minimal development, as described in the scoping notice.

A commenter asked if the Forest Service is obligated to accept and process any MDP (I302-3).

Response: No, the agency has established screening criteria which MDPs must pass before being accepted.

A commenter asked if the Forest Service authorizes conference centers on NFS land (I302-34).

Response: Yes, the Forest Service has authorized conference centers on NFS land. However, this proposed action does not include a conference center.

A commenter asked if political activities were authorized in permitted facilities (I302-27).

Response: Forest Service regulation and policy do not prohibit political activities in permitted facilities.

A commenter said the zip line was inconsistent with Forest Service policy and set a bad precedent (I270-28).

Response: That is not the case. See response above under Process/Purpose and Need/Ski Area Recreation Opportunity Enhancement Act.

Compliance with Other Plans and Regulations

A number of comments addressed the proposed action’s compliance with town/county comprehensive plan and land development regulations (O4-20, I25-5, I56-5, I222-8, I339-5, I369-4). Specific comments included the following:

...that the EIS process takes into careful consideration how the current Snow King proposal adheres to community goals and local regulations outlined in the 2012 Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan. (A4-2)

...we ask that you consider the Jackson-Teton County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2012 to balance development with environmental stewardship and community character. (A5-1)

Response: As discussed above under Process/Purpose and Need/Community Planning, the BTNF endeavors to be good neighbors with the adjoining community and to coordinate planning to the extent possible while meeting our own agency's direction, including that documented in our Forest Plan. The EIS will address Forest Plan compliance, and the Town of Jackson and Teton County, as cooperating agencies, will identify any inconsistencies with town and county plans that are relevant to the analysis of environmental effects.

Other commenters addressed specific provisions of the comprehensive plan and LDRs (I86-4, I99-1, I212-2, I219-4, I219-5, I284-8, I284-11, I285-3, I286-3, I287-2, I287-8, I218-19):

One relevant policy is that "existing Planned Resorts should be limited to their existing footprint" (Policy 3.1.d). The proposed on-mountain development, in conjunction with development of parcels at the base, clearly contradicts our Comprehensive Plan directive to protect our ecosystem. (O4-19)

Please consider our LDRs, which stipulate that development "ensure a balance is maintained between tourism and community that promotes social diversity but does not cause undesired shifts away from rural, western community character." (I18-6)

How will summit development be in compliance with Teton County's skyline development prohibition? (I56-10)

Response: See the preceding response.

Commenters cited compliance with 2000 base area master plan (I371-2, O4-47). Specific comments included the following:

Hold investors accountable to the 2000 base masterplan...They should have to live up to these carefully negotiated agreements. There is no need to allow them to BOTH develop those 500,000 sf and overdevelop the ski hill as well. (I326-2)

Either use SKRMA as a funding mechanism via past and current base development to provide some public benefit – such as, say, helping provide amenities in and around the Phil Baux Park area. Or, revisit those development rights and the entire master plan. Why are all those development rights sacrosanct and a "given" if the larger "resort" that was envisioned under that plan, and the responsibility of operating the ski area for community benefit, no longer exists today? (I334-1)

Regarding the socioeconomic impacts to the town and neighbors, years ago, as part of upzoning at the base, Snow King Mountain Resort Association agreed to provide financial support and resources to support Snow King and community-oriented activities. Unfortunately, this language is very vague and did not adequately stipulate the amount of financial support, who would receive and distribute the financial support, nor did it adequately describe the responsibilities when property was transferred to new owners. Please do not repeat this mistake. (I72-2)

Before approving any of the proposed amendments, SKRMA should be fully functional and collect funding from all responsible parties, which it is not currently, to ensure future operations, regardless of current economic climates. (I84-4)

Response: The 2000 base area master plan is in force, and it is outside Forest Service jurisdiction. Beyond that, there is no relevant relationship between these base area plans and the proposed action addressed in

the EIS other than the proposed gondola bottom terminal in Phil Baux Park, which is discussed below. Other base area planning is outside the scope of this EIS.

One commenter asked that the comprehensive plan direction be interpreted correctly:

This couldn't be actually more clear that this desire for no expansion was specific to the owned private land at the bottom of the hill and not the public land. Please do not let those who are trying to hijack the community's will expressed in the comp plan to influence the outcome for their own desire by ignoring what it actually says. (I412-1)

Response: We will make sure of the applicability of this term of the comprehensive plan in determining compliance.

Commenters questioned whether proposed development in Phil Baux Park was consistent with Parks and Recreation direction (I301-2, I309-16).

Response: Snow King is currently working with the town to determine whether landing the gondola in Phil Baux Park would be consistent with pertinent direction and would be approved by the town.

One commenter was concerned about enforcement of existing trail-use restrictions:

With the increased use of mountain bikes, E-bikes, and increased winter use of fat-tire bikes on Cache Creek trails, how and who will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the restrictions already in place? (I108-14)

Response: Within ski area boundaries, Snow King's ski patrol enforces fat-tire bike restrictions during the winter. The Forest Service is responsible for enforcing seasonal closures and other restrictions within our trail system. See Human Environment/Recreation/Effect on Existing Recreation below.

One commenter asked that the town collect fair market value for Snow King's lease of town land (I86-2).

Response: This issue is outside the scope of the EIS.

A commenter asked what role or jurisdiction Friends of Pathways had over management of this land (I302-9).

Response: Friends of Pathways operates under a partnership agreement with the Forest Service and other government agencies but has no management authority or jurisdiction.

A commenter asked if Snow King would respect the community's desire to keep the "West Portal" inviting to local residents (I309-8).

Response: This issue is outside the scope of the EIS.

Agency Involvement

The EPA and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance offered guidance on cooperating agency roles:

The Department requests continued involvement and participation in the NEPA process associated with this project and strongly encourages the Forest Service to convene cooperating agency meetings to aid in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and specifically to develop alternatives for analysis in the forthcoming EIS. (A9-7)

The Snow King Mountain Resort development cannot be looked at as a stand-alone proposal. Our town and valley face many growth challenges that should be looked at holistically. Staff conducting the EIS must work in close conjunction with the cooperating agencies of the Town of Jackson and Teton County to fully understand the biological and socioeconomic cumulative impacts that this proposal has when considered with other future potential development across the town and valley. (O4-18)

Response: Both Teton County and the Town of Jackson are formally involved as cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS.

One commenter suggested that the cooperating agencies propose amendments to the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act to protect small communities like Jackson from indirect effects of increased summer recreation at neighboring permitted ski areas (I307-1).

Response: This issue is outside the scope of the EIS.

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change and Snow Quantity

The issue of climate change was addressed from several perspectives (I1-1, I29-8, I47-2, I63-2, I71-11, I95-4, I218-53, I238-4, I333-6, I333-12), as illustrated by these comments:

Please consider sustainability of developments. How long will a ski hill with a summit at 7808' get sufficient snow? When will too frequent temperatures above 32F prohibit snow making? (I36-10)

Climate change will profoundly affect both the winter ski season operating costs and also Snow King's ability to deliver a comparable product to similarly high-priced areas, whether locally or across the Western and Eastern United States. (I129-3)

...most obvious reason, it that it faces south, and does not get the snow coverage to support ski resort level use. With climate change already diminishing our winter snowpack, terrain development on south facing slopes does not make sense. (I282-10)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Another commenter raised a separate issue regarding snow quantity:

Have there been any snow studies or climate data derived from the proposed expansion sites? (I302-21)

Does BTNF research historical climate data when making a decision? (I302-22)

Response: Such information will be obtained and used in the analysis as necessary to identify any significant impacts.

Air Quality

Class I Airshed

The EPA requested analysis of effects on the Class I airshed associated with GTNP:

We recommend the EIS include a qualitative discussion of the potential for impacts from project activities due to Snow King's proximity to Class I areas. For example, we recommend disclosing if burning is a potential option for the disposal of trees and other woody debris... Additionally, road building and other construction activities have the potential to impact air quality through soil disturbance and use of off-road construction equipment. (A6-6)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Snowmaking Cloud

Several commenters expressed concern over the “snowmaking cloud” from Snow King (I218-6, I270-49, I385-1, I407-3). For example:

The current snowmaking system casts a large cloud over my neighborhood during the coldest winter days, making them even colder. Is there a way that Snow King can continue to produce snow that will not create this negative side effect? (I375-1)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Water, Soils, and Watershed

Commenters asked how many acres would be disturbed temporarily and permanently and how many trees would be removed (I56-11j, I56-11k, I218-42).

Response: The EIS will identify the extent of disturbance of various types. The number of trees removed may be calculated if necessary, to complete the analysis.

Hydrology

Several commenters were concerned about potential hydrologic effects, particularly alteration of stream channels, surface flows, and groundwater recharge (A6-4, I56-11k, I56-11l, I71-32, I339-3), for example:

The snowmaking expansion planned to allow skiing in this marginal snow area could have effects on spring runoff in Leeks Canyon (I218-13)

There is a concern that there would be adverse direct and indirect impacts to soil and water resources, both short- and long-term, with development east of the current permit area. This includes impacts to stream channels, hydrology, and water quality. (I333-11)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Water Quality

Several commenters voiced concerns about sedimentation of receiving water bodies (A6-3, A8-3, A8-4, O4-34), particularly to 303(d) listed Flat Creek:

The WQD understands that the Proponent proposes to adjust their operating boundary and their special use permit boundary to expand winter and summer operations, including tree-clearing and grading in the currently permitted area. These types of disturbances have the ability to increase runoff, erosion, and sediment transport to nearby waterbodies. (A8-1)

The WQD requests that the Forest Service analyze the potential for the project to contribute sediment to Flat Creek. (A8-2)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Water Quantity

Several commenters were concerned about increased use of municipal water for proposed snowmaking, including the adequacy of the water supply, rights to its use, and the impact on municipal water availability (A6-5, O4-44, I169-6, I71-27, I71-32, I212-8, I218-51, I219-3, I238-14, I287-4, I284-10).

The proposal states that additional water would come from the Town of Jackson. Has the Town already approved this? What would be the additional quantity? Where would it be pumped from? I have a concern that the Town may not be able to provide the additional water, may not have been consulted, and that the details (e.g., electricity to pump the water) need to be assessed via NEPA. (I333-4)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact. It is important to keep in mind that expanding snowmaking system coverage does not correlate directly with increased water use. Rather, it provides the ski area with the flexibility to use available water for snowmaking where it is needed most.

Erosion and Soil Stability

Commenters questioned the effects of the proposed action – particularly the access road/skiway and snowmaking – on erosion and soil stability (I56-11g, I71-21, I93-7, I218-63, I333-21, I270-4, I299-6, I299-54, I302-12, I302-13, I333-17, I333-18). Examples include:

There are so many other issues, but the worst-case scenario would be if a seemingly inevitable forest fire starts near the base, and quickly races up the King. With a huge cross-section removed, erosion and landslide events would be a likely result for the eternal future. A scorched ski area with this road could likely result in frequent closures of the entire mountain when saturated or thawing soils are present. (I308-3)

Climate trends and current excessive flooding experiences around the country and here confirm that rainfall is often falling in very heavy downpours. This will likely increase the likelihood of serious erosion/damage associated with the proposed new road excavation on the north side of the mountain. Please consider heavy rainfall events when analyzing the road proposal. (I238-6)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Landslide and Rockslide

Commenters also noted concerns about landslide and rockslide risks (I47-3, I212-6, I212-7, I218-26, I218-55, I302-14). For example:

Construction of the access road raises concerns about potential rockslides, landslides and avalanches, as well as visual impacts to the community. (A5-5)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Wetlands

The EPA requested assessment of wetland impacts:

A description of any wetland impacts, temporary and permanent, direct and indirect, past and reasonably foreseeable. Such impacts may include functional conversion of wetlands (e.g., forested to shrub-scrub) ... Changes to supporting wetland hydrology even if these wetlands are outside of the construction footprint. (e.g., snow melt patterns, sheet flow, and intercepted groundwater hydrology) ... (A6-2)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Vegetation

Special-status Species

Potential impacts on special-status plant species were noted:

Full analysis of impacts to threatened, endangered and species of special concern. (I56-11f)

Response: Effects on federally listed and Forest Service Region 4 sensitive species will be addressed in the EIS.

Noxious Weeds

Concern about introduction, spread, and management of invasive weed species was expressed (I218-2, I218-20, I218-64), including:

How will invasive plant species be controlled? (I56-11m)

Fragmentation by construction and trail use on higher elevation plant species and grassland species, including increased spread of invasive exotics (I71-36)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Forest Clearing

Several commenters were concerned about forest clearing (I64-3, I294-2, I299-34, I270-35). Examples include:

I don't want to see the destruction of additional trees on Snow King Mountain. I simply don't want additional ski runs in place of trees. Trees provide many earth-friendly benefits. (I239-2)

Has there been research on the impacts of planned clearing and glading of the dense conifers blanketing the hillsides? (I36-3)

Response: Forest clearing will be addressed in the EIS as it impacts other resources such as watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and scenic values.

General Vegetation

Potential impacts on other general vegetation and habitat value were noted (I73-2, I292-1, I71-36, I71-38, I218-42, I218-63, I407-13, I299-19, I270-17) including:

I also worry about the health of our forests, mountain ecosystems, and animal habitat each time new ground is broken for another building project. Yes, the ideas seem great for the people, but at what cost to the habitat? (I45-1)

Additional impacts, though not articulated as often, will be to the quality of the natural environment, the grasses, the wide variety of wildflowers, small shrubs, sagebrush, etc. (I108-5)

Response: Effects on general vegetation (i.e., not special status species) will be addressed in the EIS as they impact other resources such as watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and scenic values.

Snowmaking Effects

Concern over potential effects of snowmaking on vegetation were noted (I56-11h, I71-38). For example:

What are the effects of possible changes in water regimes resulting from snowmaking in affected habitats (e.g. sagebrush, juniper, deciduous forest and coniferous forests)? Will these vegetation types and their species composition change? (O4-35)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Analysis Methods

A comment was raised about the methods used to assess vegetation impacts:

With the amount of surface disturbance proposed for the summit area, what will be done to survey for native plants and then protect what is found? Has a survey been completed? (I218-41)

Response: The EIS will describe the impact assessment methodology.

Wildlife

Special-status Species

Potential impacts on special-status wildlife species were noted (O4-24, O4-31 – 32, I313-2, I313-3, I313-5, I371-1), as represented by the following:

Full analysis of impacts to threatened, endangered and species of special concern. (I56-11f)

Under the framework, second-tier biological opinions would be issued when proposed actions result in adverse effects to lynx that were not fully analyzed in the first-tier biological opinion. We recommend the EIS evaluate the effects of the Project on lynx and determine whether there are effects that should be analyzed in a second-tier consultation. (A7-1)

I would like to see the analysis study what effect the new activities that could occur in new seasons (such as the proposed mountain biking and zip lines) will have on wildlife and their habitat, particularly that of the threatened grizzly bear. (I174-1)

Greater Sage Grouse are very common during the fall throughout the forests and hillside residential neighborhoods of Snow King. (I313-4)

I once documented 2 large healthy Bighorn Sheep migrating through the forest, which I was very surprised to see appear on my trail cam a few years ago. This was also inside the proposed eastern switchback, and during late Spring. (I313-6)

Response: Effects on federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species will be addressed in the EIS.

General Wildlife

Many commenters raised question about general wildlife and habitat impacts (A9-4, O1-4, O4-22 – 23, O4-25 – 26, O4-28 – 30, O4-33, O4-38, O4-42 – 43, I8-3, I11-2, I11-4, I11-7, I15-2, I45-1, I46-2, I52-2, I56-6, I56-7, I59-2, I63-4, I64-2, I93-5, I94-1, I99-3, I101-4, I108-2, I108-4, I114-2, I114-2, I114-5, I123-4, I158-2, I159-1, I169-3, I219-3, I222-2, I222-4, I273-2, I278-2, I278-5, I292-1, I294-3, I298-1, I325-2, I325-2, I326-1, I338-2, I339-1, I347-2, I352-1, I363-1, I369-3, I372-1, I372-3, I373-1, I386-1, I386-2, I386-4, I387-1, I391-4, I394-1, I405-3, I282-9, I282-12, I284-4, I330-4, I71-33, I71-34, I71-35, I71-37, I71-40, I71-45, I212-4, I212-5, I248-2, I259-1, I371-3, I371-4, I371-7, I378-2, I218-12, I218-14, I218-16, I218-17, I218-18, I218-22, I218-23, I218-27, I218-29, I218-30, I218-43, I218-44, I218-54, I218-60, I218-74, I238-2, I238-7, I238-10, I299-3, I299-16, I299-17, I299-19, I299-36, I299-49, I299-51, I313-1, I313-7 – 13, I270-1, I270-17, I270-30, I270-47, I270-50, I250-1, I410-2, I415-1 – 2, I418-1,). These comments illustrate those concerns:

In size alone, this footprint expansion of the resort use area is significant. A footprint increase such as this must be done in the most thoughtful and careful manner to avoid and minimize potentially significant impacts to wildlife and their habitats. (O4-21)

...they would need to remove sage for the proposed skiing on the back of the mountain for that new skiing. Sage is like old growth forest, and these sunny slopes are valuable wildlife habitat, don't approve that expansion. (I17-5)

...please analyze the impacts to wildlife and habitat from all proposed improvements. In the area under review I have personally seen elk and their calves, deer and their fawns, moose and their calves, all sorts of raptors, and grouse. Please refer to Wyoming Game and Fish Department analysis and consider both anecdotal and more thorough scientific analyses in your review regarding potential impacts to wildlife and habitat. (I25-4)

How will expansion of uses on the north side and new developments on the south side impact wildlife distribution and use, particularly critical winter use (on the south side) and seasonal ungulate migration integrity throughout the lease area. (I56-5)

It also invites skiers into the back country skiing of Game Creek, Wilson Canyon and Leeks Canyon. The area is primary winter wildlife habitat. (I108-13)

...any western expansion would impact a buffer that exists between the winter wildlife closure and the resort. (I114-3)

...the SKMR permit section appears to be central link to wildlife movements to the north to East Gros Ventre Butte, to the west to the valley across to Munger Mountain, and to the east up Cache Creek, which also links it to federal lands east and north, as well as to the southern canyons. Hence increased development of Snow King can have disproportional impact on the surrounding public lands and wildlife. (I71-31)

How will snow making and skiing affect subnivean species? (I71-39)

Recent mule deer research conducted by the Teton Science School Conservation Research Center indicates the Snow King area provides critical habitats that functionally serve as a relatively unfragmented connectivity corridor for mule deer movements from winter ranges in Game Creek and Leeks Canyon to summer ranges in the Gros Ventre Range and Teton Range...The importance of Leeks Canyon as a crucial big game winter range cannot be understated nor should it be potentially rendered ineffective because of expanded winter recreation into or adjacent to this important wildlife habitat. (A9-1)

Due to the level of existing development and habitat fragmentation associated with the ski resort, we believe it is appropriate to offer a comprehensive level of protection to wildlife winter ranges by reassessing the amount of development that should occur in the Leeks Canyon area. (A9-3)

Furthermore, displacement of big game from Leeks Canyon would likely lead to additional wildlife-human conflicts on private property and may also result in additional wildlife-vehicle collisions on U.S. Highway 26/189/191. (A9-5)

Response: Concern about effects on general wildlife outweighed all others identified through scoping. However, NEPA regulations directs us to focus analysis on potentially significant impacts and eliminate issues not requiring in-depth analysis (40 CFR 1501.1[d] and 1501.7[a]). For the following reasons, most of the general wildlife concerns identified do not suggest potentially significant impacts requiring in-depth analysis:

- Our Forest Plan direction focuses on protection of special-status species, defined as federally listed and candidate species, as well as Forest Service sensitive species.
- Most of the species mentioned are game animals or otherwise common, which do not suffer from limited habitat.
- The project area is already subject to substantial human influence and use, to which many of these species have become accustomed – otherwise they would not be here.

Accordingly, our analysis will focus primarily on special-status species. We will address some of the issues raised, such as winter range in Leeks Canyon, critical migration routes, and effects on existing wildlife closure areas.

Analysis Methods

Commenters raised questions about the analysis method:

Who will be hired to conduct the biological surveys outside the boundary? Does Snow King get to choose who is hired? Will all four seasons be studied? Will they attempt to gain local input, or just make their decision based on a few walks in the woods? (I302-24)

Has the BTNF received complaints about people skiing/snowboarding in the surrounding wildlife habitat? (I302-8)

Response: The EIS will describe the impact assessment methodology.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Cultural

Historic Landscape

A number of commenters raised concerns about impacts to Snow King's historical landscape (I69-9, I299-12, I299-13, I304-2 – 4, I310-1 – 3), including the following:

Snow King Mountain is one of the last unrecognized significant historical sites remaining in Jackson, and by far our most recognized landmark. No one has ever written a book about its

amazing history, but the Teton County Historical Preservation Board did provide a detailed report prior to “Phase 1”, and found that a few buildings are eligible for designation, as well as the whole mountain itself. (I304-1)

Most of the buildings that contribute to this status will be removed under the proposal and the view of the area from town and beyond will be greatly altered. How will the history be preserved, interpreted, and made available so the public can appreciate it? (I218-5)

Response: The EIS will address potential effects on Snow King’s historic landscape.

Town Character

Other commenters were concerned about the proposed actions impacts on the character of the town (I93-1, I-71-49, I218-2, I218-10, I278-3, I326-3, I338-3, I301-1, I309-18). Examples include:

Let Jackson preserve its western heritage its small town feel. (I410-3)

Modernizing the resort will allow skmr a much better chance to sustain their operation as well as enhance the ski town atmosphere of the town. (I96-2)

Response: The EIS will address a number of more concrete socioeconomic effects (see that heading below), but the desired character of the town is a topic of ongoing debate in the community. As a result, people have individual opinions about the impact of the proposed action. In this context, addressing town character is outside the scope of this EIS.

Land Use

Some commenters were concerned about impacts on the NRCS snow course on the summit:

There is a concern that the proposed actions may impact the long-term NRCS Snow Course that has been active on Snow King since 1959. Snow water equivalent measurements are made throughout the winter at this north-facing site. The presence of this feature is not identified in the scoping document.... The Forest has an MOU with the NRCS to protect Snow Courses and SNOTEL sites, and changes in snow accumulation patterns due to development cannot occur without consultation with the NRCS. (I333-23)

What is the protocol for changing the hydrology observation site that has been in use for decades at the top of Snow King? (I302-23)

Response: The EIS will address potential effects on this facility, which may be impacted by ski school/teaching center on the summit.

Others commented on the grazing permits in Leek’s Canyon:

The Lockhart family has several USFS permits in Leeks Canyon. It appears the Snow King expansion will impact those permits. We also have private property at the mouth of Leeks canyon. The Snow King expansion will also impact that property. (I206-1)

Expansion onto the southern slope will impact important grazing opportunities in both winter and summer through snow making machinery working to counteract snow melting caused by the heavy sun loads on bare slopes, and dramatically increasing the amount of water that will be artificially ‘injected’ into that drainage to compensate. (I339-3 dup)

Private property owners at the bottom of Leeks Canyon will likely have concerns about trespassing, increased runoff from snowmaking, providing construction/emergency search and rescue access. (I270-59)

Response: The EIS will address effects on grazing in Leek’s Canyon.

Noise

A number of commenters were concerned about the noise resulting from the proposed action primarily by snowmaking and the zipline (A5-6, O8-1, I15-3, I18-3, I20-1, I25-10, I36-2, I47-5, I52-5, I63-3, I170-4, I171-30, I72-8, I81-2, I95-3, I108-2, I137-2, I218-2, I218-15, I218-47, I252-2, I270-31, I283-2, I284-2, I299-31, I302-5, I309-3, I309-11, I309-15, I309-2, I385-2 – 3, I391-6, I407-2, I407-7, I415-5). Examples include:

The noise of the snow making, that high pitched whine, will increase many fold... The noise from zip line participants in summer will be obnoxious. Even now we can hear screams from the existing slide. (I64-6)

The proposed Zip line, the fast down-hill mountain biking trails... all generate loud shouts that echo across the area... Will the restaurant and weddings on the summit also echo music and announcements over the town and into the canyons?... This sound will only spread farther and higher on the mountain, and onto the other side. (I71-48)

The lower terminus of the zip line, along with that of the gondola, will increase the existing noise and carnival atmosphere at the base area (I218-78)

...it will require additional avalanche mitigation, a significant noise impact (I284-6)

Response: The EIS will address these issues.

Recreation

Effect on Existing Ski Runs

Several commenters were concerned about the impact of the proposed access road/skiway on existing ski runs, on its designation as an “easy way down,” and on the quality of the proposed new ski runs off it, both positive and negative (O4-1, I37-2, I52-3, I114-1, I123-4, I155-3, I170-5, I173-1, I226-2, I250-1, I284-5, I363-1,). Examples include:

The road should not be justified based on the easy ski terrain from the top. The road would damage much of the good skiing at the mountain, the runs they would add between the switchbacks are too short to be considered anything but window dressing for the road, and skiing down a road or cat track is not real beginner terrain. (I17-3)

It would be great to see an easy way down from the summit, beginner skiing at the top of the mountain, and more beginner and intermediate ski terrain on the south side, to make the steep hill more accessible to a broader audience. (I40-2, dup)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Effect on Snow King Prices

A number of commenters were concerned about locals being priced out of Snow King following the proposed actions (I86-2, I108-11, I129-1,), for example:

This will likely alienate a major portion of SKM's intend target market: locals in search of affordable lift accessed skiing. (I299-63)

Response: Ticket pricing is determined by the permittee’s business model and is not subject to Forest Service authority.

Effect of Existing Recreation

Other were concerned about continued access to public land in the permit area and to the existing hiking and bike trail network, particularly free access, and about effects on the quality of those recreational opportunities (O4-8, O8-2, I12-5, I29-9, I56-4, I71-16, I71-29, I71-50, I218-66, I218-67, I218-76, I281-6,

I238-9, I238-11, I270-56, I299-4, I299-9, I299-60, I270-2, I270-7, I270-41, I309-5, I311-2, I311-4 – 5, I312-1 – 2, I318-3, I375-6,). Examples include:

Please ensure the alternatives appropriately improve public access to the trails on Snow King Mountain and ensure this access is free to the public year around. (I25-7)

Just as we've already experienced w/ being charged for skinning the mountain, will mountain biking uphill in summer be regulated similarly? (I81-4)

Additionally, if bikers are paying Snow King to access the peak, they will then be able to (over) use the trails that are currently maintained by Friends of Pathways and others. (I259-4)

[The proposed mountain bike trails will] also could contribute to increased mountain biking down the south slopes into Leeks, Wilson, and Granite Canyons (I71-28)

In this proposal there are multiple downhill bike trails proposed off of new summit lift and the new chair lift "A" on the back side of the mountain. It is important to remember that the USFS ruled that no bikes would be allowed off of the Summit lift in the Cache-Game Trail Projects decision memo. This is to protect trail users from a flood of bikes onto the Josie's Ridge and Ferrin's trails and other parts of the multi-use trail system. We implore the BTNF to uphold this decision and not allow lift served mountain bike trails off of the summit lift. (O2-4)

Does SK or Friends of Pathways have a plan for rerouting public trails? The Hagen Trail would be heavily impacted by a road and new trails. (I302-31)

Would locals and visitors still enjoy hiking and dog walking on Snow King Mountain, or choose to go elsewhere? (I309-4)

Response: In regard to access to public lands within the ski area, see the response above under Process/Proposed Action/Specific Elements/Public Access Fees. Forest Service policy allows for permitted ski areas to charge for use of infrastructure the permittees pay to construct and maintain. Beyond that, hiking and biking trails that pass through the permit area will be maintained in good, functional condition, and access to them will be unchanged. The BTNF will assess keeping lift-served mountain bike traffic within the proposed trail system and park and off of the Summit Trail and other existing trails. See also the responses under Process/Mitigation/Recreation.

Effect on Phil Baux Park

Impacts on Phil Baux Park were also a concern (I69-1b, I69-2, I325-3)

Please do not consider any alternative that impairs Phil Baux Park in any significant manner. (I25-6)

It is wrong to build a gondola that will need the space of the baseball field which has been in use for 50-60 years. (I8-4)

A gondola based in Phil Baux Park will open the congested base area and greatly enhance skiing and other events that can be held at Snow King. (I75-2)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Access for People with Disabilities

Some commenters were concerned about access to proposed facilities by people with disabilities, both pro and con:

Using a gondola to reach the summit opens up possibilities that a chairlift never could. People with disabilities can come up and enjoy the view from the summit. (I195-3)

The thing about zip lining is that it accessible to everyone - and this should be a requirement (ADA). (I248-5)

Response: See response under Process/Proposed Action/General. Accessibility is important to the Forest Service, as reflected in guidelines for achieving it at ski areas and other recreational facilities.

Analysis Methods

Several commenters had questions about the information used in the analysis:

How many skier days does Snow King host today – and how many will it host after boundary, trail, and lift expansion? (O4-12, I284-14, I238-16, I270-64)

How many people ride the Summit lift now and how many people do they expect to ride the new gondola – in winter, and in summer? (O4-13, I284-15, I238-17, I270-65)

How many people do they expect to ride the zipline, every day, and total? (O4-14, I284-16, I238-18, I270-66)

Response: These figures will be included in the EIS as necessary to support the analysis of environmental effects.

Safety

General

Some commenters had general views on safety effects, generally positive:

I wanted to write a short note to voice my support for the mountain improvements requested by Snow King... the addition of updated lifts and lighting will enhance skier safety. (I113-1 dup)

...terrain improvement, safer, updated lifts & a gondola to the top of the mountain would keep our kids safer & open up the terrain to all levels of skiers. (I266-2)

...a gondola would also help to mitigate risks in winter and summer as emergency personnel would have an easier way to get down the mountain. (I163-2)

Response: The EIS will address these effects.

Skier Safety

Some commenters questioned the safety of the proposed access road/skiway as an “easy way down,” both pro and con (O4-41, O8-6, I8-3, I12-2, I110-2, I226-2, I259-5, I270-6, I270-19, I270-22, I270-54 – 55, I270-58, I298-1, I299-8, I299-58 – 59, I299-61, I299-23, I308-2, I315-2, I369-3, I371-5, I372-4, I407-6). For example:

...expanded access to a beginner ski route... and replacing the Summit lift with a gondola will improve safety and overall experience. (I37-2)

...a gondola and easier routes down from the top of the mountain will open a huge variety of skiing options and make for a better experience... The old lift is not safe for younger kids without an adult, and the route down is for more advanced skiers. (I104-2)

...there is one aspect of the plan that will not serve it's intended purpose, and will, in fact, create considerable additional hazard to the skiing public. I refer to the proposed realignment of the road up the mountain on the north side... It is intended to serve as a beginner run off the mountain. In order to do that, it would have to be groomed regularly. This will not be possible to do safely... A groomer sliding off the road on those steeper slopes would have far worse consequences than the two incidents of recent years... The next safety consideration should be for those beginner skiers who would be traversing across the middle of some of the steepest runs on the mountain, underneath high-speed expert traffic. There would also be issues with those beginners who slide

off the lower edge of the road and have to be lifted or lowered to get back on beginner terrain... For the experts themselves, the roadcut would present its own safety problem, as the drop onto the road would be both steep and considerably longer than that onto the current Trapper traverse. (I220-1)

Response: The EIS will address these issues.

Other commenters were concerned about safety risks associated with the more remote, back-side ski terrain:

We have specific concerns about emergency response on the 'backside' of the mountain where there is no indication of a viable road out in winter. (O8-5)

[Back side ski runs] will likely encourage more people to venture further into the Leeks, Wilson Canyons and Game Creek drainages. This could prove to be a significant skier safety issue since the backcountry skiing can be challenging. (I238-8)

Response: The EIS will address these issues.

Many were concerned about the safety impact of the proposed access road/skiway crossing ski runs. For example:

I can't see how the proposed road cutting across the north face of the ski hill can add to the safety or enjoyment of the winter skiers. The steep cuts necessary to extend the road for the stated purpose of servicing the uphill development will compromise every existing ski run, totally eliminating the long, uninterrupted downhill runs that have made Snow King so valuable for an exhilarating ski experience, but also for the training opportunities that bring so many ski teams to the mountain. (I52-3)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact. As discussed above under Process/Mitigation/Recreation, service roads crossing ski runs is a common situation at most ski areas and occurs currently at Snow King. Effective management of the risk is common practice.

Zip Line Safety

Some commenters were concerned about the safety of the zip line (O8-4, I218-79, I270-30, I299-30, I301-5), including:

How many ziplines in the USA have been shut down due to accidents? How many lawsuits have been filed against the operators of much mellower ziplines? What were the results of these lawsuits? Why hasn't Grand Targhee ever re-introduced ziplining after they were involved in an accident and lawsuit? (I309-12)

Do thrill rides increase the level of acceptable risk and consequently impact the facility of local emergency services to respond to events resulting from installation of man-made risk machines? (O8-4)

Response: In accepting Snow King's MDP, the BTNF considered the appropriateness and safety of the proposed summer recreational infrastructure. Beyond that, Forest Service engineering review will be required before construction is authorized. This issue will not be addressed in the EIS.

Mountain Bike Safety

Some commenters were concerned about the safety of mountain bikers using the proposed trails (I311-1):

Mountain bike trails are likely to lead to frequent injury, given the very steep slope of the hill itself. (I259-3)

How will junctions with the proposed bike trails be managed to promote safety? (I218-62)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Avalanche

Several comments dealt with potentially increased avalanche hazard (I171-18, I270-3, I270-37, I270-51, I299-5, I299-35, I299-52, I339-2, I391-5), for example:

The new alignment would substantially increase the avalanche hazard on the mountain by creating unsupported slabs at any location where it crosses an open slope of more than 30 degrees.... The proposed road alignment would create additional unsupported slabs on upper Grizzly, upper Elk, Exhibition, and Bearcat, as well as where it would cross the now out-of-bounds avalanche path west of Bearcat. (I220-2)

Expanding the ski area boundaries to the east and west pose potential to increase avalanche hazards for neighbors below... Any glading or clearing of new runs will only compound the potential for damage to structures. (I160-10)

Ski run 4 and the road switchback appear to be in the path of Ferrin's Slide. I don't see a benefit to deliberately placing these facilities in a known avalanche path and then requiring new avalanche control where none is needed now. (I218-25)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Fire

Commenters expressed views about effects of fire, both pro and con (O4-3, I56-9, I71-37, I78-1, I218-9, I218-68, I218-70, I299-55, I330-5, I333-2), for example:

Could the increased development at the top actually increase risk of accidental fires with more visitors and equipment? (I71-10)

...increased spread of invasive exotics which could in turn affect forage for wildlife, alterations in insect populations, and incidence and spread of wildfire (cheat-grass). (I71-37)

With more snowmaking and trail development on the backside, this could serve as more fire prevention. (I107-5)

An aid to fire prevention was cited as another reason for expanded snowmaking. Is this necessary in winter? This does not make sense, unless it is for structural fire protection, in which case more explanation is necessary. (I333-7)

Response: The scoping notice identified several benefits of the proposed action in terms of fire prevention and suppression – breaking up fuel continuity through clearing and glading, consistent with the resort's existing vegetation – and expanding the snowmaking system to provide piping and pump capability to deliver water throughout the permit area at any time of year. Weed management will be addressed in the EIS, as discussed above under Physical and Biological Environment/Vegetation/Noxious Weeds, which will address any increase in fine fuels. Accordingly, this issue will not be addressed in the EIS.

Dog Safety

A commenter was concerned about the safety of their dogs when walking on proposed trails:

I also would not feel safe for my dogs being anywhere near more bikers, and I appreciate the fact that I do not have to worry about them getting run over while using Snow King. (I12-6)

Response: Dog safety can be considered a correlate of human safety, and hikers will not be allowed to use the proposed bike trails. This issue will not be addressed in the EIS.

Radio-waves

One commenter was concerned about the threat of radio-waves (I302-30):

Careful considerations and studies should be done to protect the public and employees from high-frequency radio waves emanating from the adjacent [to summit building] radio towers. (I299-40)

Response: Snow King visitors have long frequented the summit with no reported ill effects from radio waves. This issue will not be addressed in the EIS.

Scenic

General

Some commenters raised general concerns about the scenic effects of the proposed action (O4-5, I15-1, I47-5, I218-2, I218-50, I252-3, I385-4, I391-6, I394-2), such as:

A full scenic assessment based on a professional modeling of all the visual elements needs to be included to determine if it “harmonizes” with the forest and is acceptable to the community. (I71-47)

Further visual degradation to the mountain from the town and more lighting to destroy the night skies are simply not acceptable to the community and should not be part of any further construction. (I1-3)

Response: The EIS will address these issues using established Forest Service procedures for addressing scenic effects.

Access Road/Skiway

Many commenters were concerned about the visual impact of the proposed access road/skiway (A5-5, I145-1, I64-8, I218-20, I270-12, I270-35 – 36, I284-3, I294-2, I369-3, I391-1, I405-2). Examples include:

The access road will be an ugly scar. It will destroy habitat and just be ugly, defacing the existing beautiful views. (I64-4)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Lighting/Light Pollution

The impacts of proposed lighting for night skiing and on the summit were addressed by several commenters (O4-6, I18-7, I71-44, I71-46, I123-2, I125-11, I137-2, I160-8, I164-5, I99-7, I218-57, I252-2, I259-2, I330-3, I391-7, I415-3), including the following:

In addition, the Town asks the Forest to consider possible impacts and different alternatives for the proposed additional lighting for night skiing as this may impact the Town’s dark sky goals and impact surrounding neighbors. (A5-7)

I have no problems with a restaurant being put at the Summit, provided that hours are severely restricted so as to not disturb wildlife or Teton County’s dark sky ordinances. (I114-5)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Summit Construction

Several commenters raised concerns about the visual impact of construction on the summit (I114-9, I99-7, I160-11, I99-7, I240-3, I270-35, I284-12, I285-4, I299-34, I302-20, I302-26, I394-2), including:

Building a restaurant and other buildings high on the mountain will add to the eyesore and will most likely be underused for the investment. (I123-5)

Though the new structure is to be one level, it's likely to be seen from elsewhere, its lights in particular. There are county regulations prohibiting "skylining" of homes and other structures, and though they are not rigorously enforced, it would seem inappropriate to allow a national forest permittee to violate them (I218-36)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Gondola

Concern was also expressed about the visibility of the proposed gondola:

Our primary concern is that gondola cars will stand out like a sore thumb if painted colors that contrast with the natural colors of the forest...., the gondolas should be finished in a color that blends with the mountain instead of a primary color such as red, yellow, blue or white, which do not "harmonize with the natural environment." (I160-6)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Zipline

Commenters expressed concern about the impact of the zip line (I281-7), including:

The scenic (both sound and visual) and nature values of the mountain slopes will be significantly compromised by this [zipline]. (I71-30)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Bike Trails

A commenter questioned the visual impact of front-side bike trails:

It appears from the map that the lower beginner/intermediate bike trails will be "excavated" and will consist of a dense series of switchbacks. How will these be constructed to minimize their effects on scenery, vegetation, and bare ground exposure? (I218-63)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Tree Clearing

Some comments were raised about the visual effect of clearing new ski runs (), for example:

Taking away more trees for runs will create more of an eyesore on the mountain and reduce habitat for wildlife and tree coverage on hiking and biking trails. (I123-4 dup)

Response: The EIS will address this issue as necessary to identify any significant environmental impact.

Socioeconomic

General

Many commenters raised concerns over impacts on the community, including traffic, parking, employee housing, and community character, both positive and negative (O12-3, I36-8, I56-1b, I56-1c, I71-14, I93-3, I93-8, I125-12, I218-2, I230-3, I284-17, I305-1, I360-1, I365-2, I372-1). Illustrative comments include:

...we will strongly encourage Jackson Town Council to work with Snow King representatives to maximize workforce housing in their existing resort footprint, require strong commitments from a thorough and fitting transportation demand management plan, and ice rink/mountain sports complex expansion opportunities. (A1-3)

Related to Growth Management and Quality of Life, the analysis of each element of the proposal should also address additional needs for parking and employee housing, as these will have impacts on the Town. (A5-3)

This means more... tax revenue to help manage infrastructure needs in the town and county. (I14-3)

Being able to improve their location with these proposed attractions is a great step toward... offering resident families more opportunities for both jobs and recreation. (I14-5)

The proposal would make Snow King viable and sustainable in the future for the community's use and enjoyment and would also generate additional sales and real estate tax revenue. (I191-3)

Enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities for family travelers and adventure travelers can support a longer length of stay. Increasing the average length of stay by one-full day will generate a 30 percent increase in local and statewide sales tax. (A10-5)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address socioeconomic concerns such as these. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS. Beyond that, feelings are clearly mixed on the proposed impacts on the character of Jackson and the economic effects of an expanded recreation opportunity in a recreation-based economy. Accordingly, the EIS will not address these speculative effects.

Employee Housing

Other commenters commented specifically on employee housing (O4-15, O8-7, O8-9, I93-2, I129-2, I216-6, I238-19, I270-67, I284-20, I299-64, I302-2, I360-2, I418-2), including:

Please consider SKMR's plan, or lack thereof, for employee housing. (I89-4)

I am also very concerned about adding to the housing crisis that already exists in our community. We do not need more jobs; we need affordable housing for the people who already live here. Unless Snow King has a plan for housing all of the new employees they will be hiring, I do not think any of their expansion plan should be considered. (I93-4)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address socioeconomic concerns including employee housing. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS.

Utilities

Several commenters questioned impacts on utilities (I218-56, I238-14, I238-21, I270-70, I284-19), including:

How much more impact will there be on utilities – water, sewer, garbage, etc.? And who will pay for the necessary upgrades to town infrastructure? (O4-17)

How much increased power will be needed, and will higher capacity transmission facilities be needed? (I218-52)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address concerns including provision of sufficient utilities. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS.

Analysis Methods

Several commenters noted methodological concerns:

How would the anticipated, or target visitor use of EACH of the amenities they propose to construct, expand and/or maintain (at current levels) impact surrounding National Forest Lands? (I56-1a)

This proposal requires a thorough economic review by the USFS, including the proportionate costs for winter vs. summer use and visitation. (I71-23)

What improvements give the most economic return and the least impact. Is a gondola, restaurant with a few expensive weddings a year less impactful than more lifts. (I318-1)

A full energy audit should be developed and compared to providing similar facilities at the base. (I71-52)

Would the new jobs pay enough to ensure properly trained employees can address restrictions such as age (ID requirements for young children?) and weight limits? Will they be trained to perform sobriety tests or administer a Breathalyzer test? (I309-19)

Response: It is not clear what these methods would contribute to the analysis. The EIS will not include these methods.

Traffic and Parking

General

A number of commenters lumped traffic and parking concerns (I25-12, I36-8, I71-14, I92-5, I95-3, I218-2, I338-3), for example:

All of the proposed improvements and expansions will significantly increase traffic and congestion that will cause severe parking issues in the surrounding neighborhoods. I would also strongly urge that this impact be properly assessed and accounted for before approving anything. (I84-3)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address concerns including traffic, and parking. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS.

Parking

Others focused on parking (A5-6, O8-3, I93-3, I95-3, I270-68, I391-6), specifically:

The installation of a high-speed lift should not interfere with parking at the base or the existing ball field. (I85-2)

How much parking does Snow King use now – vs. after building these projects?... How many new parking spots will this development require, and where will they put those spots? (O4-16, I284-18, I238-2, I270-69)

Where should a visiting (or local) beginner skier park their car? If they park near the rental shop at the Hotel, they would be required to walk a long distance in ski boots towards a new Summit Lift. (I315-4)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address concerns including parking. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS.

Traffic

Others specifically mentioned traffic effects, both positive and negative (I47-5, I360-1), including:

Mountain biking is increasing in popularity and having a trail system close to where people live in the town of Jackson will not only be convenient but will also help to cut down on the traffic on our roads. (I215-2)

[Use of Leeks Canyon road] would also increase in-town traffic with workers having to drive all the way through town and down toward South Park to come up the back side for construction purposes. (I248-3)

Response: Addressing these concerns is an ongoing effort on the part of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, which are cooperating agencies in preparing this EIS. The Snow King base area and lower portion of the mountain are on private land within the Town of Jackson, and the town has developed the *Snow King Resort District Master Plan* specifically to address concerns including traffic. As a result, they are outside the scope of this EIS.

Analysis Methodology

Some suggested analytical methods and requirements:

...if Snow King is permitted to add the infrastructure that they are proposing without significantly increasing parking the local community will feel the pain – it will not be a benefit... At a minimum, a parking/traffic study should be commissioned to evaluate exactly how much additional parking is needed. (I160-2)

Response: This approach will be considered if the analysis indicates such a study is necessary to identify a significant environmental effect.

COMMENTS EXPRESSING OPINION ABOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION

Pro

General

68 commenters in favor of the project based on value to the community:

(A1-2, A3-1, O9-1, I3-1, I7-1, I28-1, I34-1, I66-1, I102-1, I124-1, I147-2, I198-2, I207-1, I208-2, I21-1, I227-1, I246-1, I258-1, I266-3, I288-1, I317-2, I321-1, I329-1, I332-1, I340-1, I342-2, I348-2, I349-1, I349-3, I353-2, I356-3, I356-4, I370-1, I381-1, I383-2, I399-1, I401-2, I406-1, I413-1, I419-1, I296-4, I163-1, I400-1, I401-1, I417-1, O12-2, I35-1, I16-1, I57-1, I53-3, I148-2, I203-2, I230-2, I4-7, I180-1, I185-3, I187-2, I194-3, I271-6, I271-7, I289-3, I388-4, I229-6, I400-3, I334-4, I74-1, I194-2, A10-4).

Examples:

Enhancing and improving Snow King Mountain builds out additional recreational opportunities for both locals and the visiting public during the slower winter months when local businesses are working to attract every single guest through their doors. (O9-1)

With Snow King's proposed improvements, they are providing us with more opportunities to foster our community goodwill and give us more reasons to love where we live. (I21-1)

A project like the one proposed at Snow King will help ensure your visitor economy stays robust and thriving. (I180-1)

We firmly believe these plans will ensure the viability and financial success of the Mountain and be of real value to the entire community for decades to come. (I187-2)

The proposed improvements and enhancement to the area will provide a significant shot in the arm for the local economy. The investments will add modern infrastructure and amenities that will benefit locals, nonprofit user groups, and visitors to Jackson Hole. (I401-1)

A climbing gym, accessible bike terrain, a mountain sports complex - are you seriously going to turn this down? Please consider the needs and the interests of the citizens who have lived in Jackson for years and are raising families here. I urge you to stop into Smith's after school one day and notice the amount of middle and high school students who hang out there simply because they have nothing else in the shoulder seasons to do or access. During the summer, the bike park at JHMR is populated with these same kids. These are also the kids who were populating the climbing gym years ago when we had one. (I349-3)

169 commenters generally in favor of the project or in favor of more than one proposed action:

(O11-1, I4-11, I4-1, I5-1, I9-1, I10-1, I10-1, I13-1, I14-1, I14-2, I22-1, I231-1, I24-1, I26-1, I30-1, I33-1, I37-1, I38-1, I39-1, I40-1, I43-1, I50-1, I53-1, I53-1, I53-2, I55-1, I58-1, I65-1, I70-2, I173-6, I75-1, I79-1, I80-1, I85-10, I87-1, I88-1, I96-1, I98-1, I104-1, I107-1, I112-1, I113-1 dup, I115-1, I116-1, I117-1, I118-1, I121-1, I122-1, I23-1, I125-1, I126-1, I130-1, I31-1, I132-1, I133-1, I135-1, I136-1, I139-1, I140-1, I141-1, I143-1, I144-1, I146-1, I147-1, I148-1, I149-3, I150-3, I153-1, I155-1, I156-1, I157-1, I164-1, I165-1, I167-1, I172-1, I175-1, I177-1, I178-1, I179-1, I180-2, I181-1, I182-1, I183-1, I184-1, I185-1, I186-1, I187-1, I189-1, I190-1, I191-1, I192-1, I194-1, I195-1, I196-1, I198-1, I199-1, I200-3, I200-4, I202-1, I203-1, I204-1, I205-1, I208-1, I209-1, I211-1, I213-1, I214-1, I215-3, I221-1, I223-1, I224-1, I224-3, I225-1, I226-1, I228-1, I229-1, I230-1, I232-1, I234-1, I236-1, I236-2, I241-1, I242-1, I243-1, I244-1, I245-1, I253-1, I254-1, I255-1, I255-2, I256-1, I257-1, I257-2, I261-1, I264-1, I266-1, I267-1, I271-1, I274-1, I275-1, I276-1, I277-1, I279-1, I282-1, I291-1, I297-1, I317-1, I319-1, I320-1, I323-1, I328-1, I332-4, I336-4, I340-2, I341-1, I342-1, I343-1, I344-1, I345-1, I346-1, I351-1, I353-1, I354-1, I357-3, I359-1, I361-1, I362-4, I364-3, I365-1, I366-1, I367-1, I368-1, I374-1, I376-1, I377-3, I380-2, I381-2, I381-3, I382-1, I383-1, I384-4, I388-1, I389-1, I392-1, I393-1, I395-1, I396-1, I397-1, I398-1, I402-1, I403-1, I404-1, I408-1, I409-1, I411-1, I414-1, I416-1, O3-1, O3-2, O6-1, O7-1, O9-2, I229-8, I400-2, A10-1, I225-1, I412-2, O10-1, I5-2, I22-2, I299-10, I4-1 dup, I32-1, I90-2, I110-1, O12-1, I193-1, I362-3, I110-2 dup, I19-1, I27-1, I40-3, I42-2, I49-1, I60-1, I62-1, I88-2, I91-1, I100-3, I149-1, I150-1, I155-2, I199-2, I215-1, I231-2, I248-7, I291-2, I295-1, I320-2 dup, I364-1, I377-1, I402-2, I160-5, I379-1, I407-11, I260-9, I420-1, I173-3, I260-11, I282-7, I402-4, I264-5, I270-10, I22-4, I149-2, I150-2, I241-3; I243-3, I289-1, I293-1, I318-2, I336-2, I350-2, I357-2, I362-2, I364-2, I366-2; I367-2, I377-2, I394-4, I394-5, I399-3, I260-6, I106-4, I77-2, I190-3, I336-3, I29-1, I38-2, I111-1, I126-2, I185-2, I197-1, I245-2, I288-2, I336-1, I350-1, I362-1, I380-1, I393-2, I100-2, I126-3, I282-6, I40-2 dup, I184-2, I191-2, I388-2, I260-18, I190-5, I226-4, I22-3, I4-2, I4-3, I17-1, I173-4, I271-3, I281-2, I376-2, I78-1 dup, I349-2, I399-4, I231-3, I260-4, I14-4).

Examples:

I'm writing to you to express my full support for the improvements being planned for Snow King Mountain. (I23-1)

A no change agenda is not viable as the community will lose an important resource and asset. Change with an eye towards sustainability and minimal impact will preserve this incredibly valuable and unique resource for future generations to enjoy. (I85-10)

I support Snow King's plan for the future and look forward to the U.S. Forest Service working with Snow King to encourage year-round natural resource-based recreation. (I173-6)

Please support Snow King Mountain's efforts to revitalize an 80 year old community ski area that is in need of upgrades and maintenance. (I231-1)

Specific

Road

Several commenters were in favor of the new road:

(I166-2, I224-2, I232-4, I260-1, I173-2, I190-2, I195-2, I245-3, I366-3, I367-3, I260-8, O10-3, I320-5, I271-2, I375-2).

Examples:

A new road to the summit also makes sense; one to bring trucks up and down during construction and two, for skiers to have an easier option to get down from the summit. (I166-2)

Regarding the road down from the Summit, I strongly support it belonging on the front side. Going through Leeks would require an added expense in getting our vehicles up the road, further congest town with our numerous trips, delay our response to safety issues/occurrences and put access to our own mountain in the hands of a private landowner... enabling a beginner the ability to ski down the mountain on their first day would be a truly empowering experience. (I224-2)

Expansion

25 commenters specifically supported the project expansion:

(I100-1, I107-3, I106-4, I106-1, I97-2, I299-18, I356-2, I282-4, A10-2, I116-3, I122-2, I145-2, I200-2, I203-3, I264-3, I226-3, I320-3, I375-5, I384-2, I402-3, I407-12, I229-2, I229-3, I107-4, I84-2).

Examples:

I am in support of opening up more terrain to give us some ski runs in the sun – so long as this does not have significant wildlife impacts. (I100-1)

I think the addition of beginner terrain west of the summit is a great idea. There needs to be more beginner terrain at Snow King that is in the sun and out of the inversion temperatures and shade. (I264-3)

Gondola

34 commenters were in support of the gondola:

(I4-5, I85-1, I90-1, I107-2, I108-7, I116-2, I24-2, I356-1, I142-1, I166-1, I200-1, I232-2, I241-2, I242-2, I268-1, I271-4, I277-2, I281-3, I289-2, I352-2, I357-1, I366-5, I367-5, I384-1, I388-3, I399-2, I229-4, I296-1, I407-10, O10-2, I104-2 dup, I106-2, I80-2, I283-3).

Examples:

Replacing the 40-year-old Summit lift with a safe gondola for year-round access to the summit will be an investment in our community. (I4-5)

Replacing the Summit Lift with a gondola engineered for downhill loading would increase the quantity of people transported up the hill and enhance the quality and safety of the ride.... Loading supplies to the top would be made easy with the new Summit gondola. (I107-2)

The proposed gondola seems to make the most sense – providing enclosed, year-round access to the summit (I116-2)

The installation of a gondola serving the top of the mountain would foster greater utility of the terrain that Snow King already uses. It would also replace a chair lift that not only has limited capacity, but due to its age, has growing safety risks. (I356-1)

Summit Buildings/Development

35 commenters were in support of the summit buildings:

(I16-2 dup, I4-4, I4-6, I38-3, I61-1, I73-1, I80-3, I85-3, I85-4, I103-1, I106-3, I107-6, I138-1, I142-2, I142-3, I162-1, I168-1, I169-7, I177-2, I190-4, I247-1, I271-5, I281-1, I327-1, I327-2, I331-1, I335-1, I393-3, I402-5, I229-5, O1-3, I282-3, I296-2, I248-11, I69-7, I5-4, I5-5, I420-4).

Examples:

Building a planetarium and observatory at the summit for science and education would be a great addition to Jackson Hole - something the valley does not currently have. (I4-6)

The proposed facility will greatly enhance science education in the area and help stimulate young people to consider careers in science and engineering and help keep the US at the forefront of innovation and discovery. (I327-2)

A summit lodge will offer a reprieve from the cold in the winter months and a beautiful option for summer dining with the best view in town. (I393-3)

Yurt camp

Two commenters were in favor of the yurt camp.

Where we live is special because of the access we have to the inspiring lands around us. Which is why the addition of a Yurt Camp on the south side of Snow King would be a large benefit for the community. (I296-3)

Additionally, we believe a yurt camp would offer the option for greater learning to happen for kids and adults alike. (I163-3)

Night Lighting

One commenter was in support of night lighting.

Yes, expansion for night-time operations to span the entire lift-accessed terrain on the north slope should be allowed. (I169-5)

Mountain Bike Trails

Several commenters were for the mountain bike trails:

(I172-2, I4-8, I85-5, I124-3, I332-2, I229-7, I184-3, I97-3, I142-4, O7-2).

Examples:

The bike trails could be of great benefit as well with minimal impact to town and nearby residents. (I97-3)

Beginner and intermediate downhill bike flow trails will introduce more people to the sport of mountain biking and make it more accessible to local youth. (I142-4)

These trails will ultimately concentrate use, taking substantial pressure off of other trail networks in the community such as Cache Creek and Shadow Mountain while providing for more well-rounded trail riding opportunities for the diverse levels of riding experience present for Jackson residents and out of towners. (O7-2)

Zip line

Several commenters were in support of the zip line:

(I375-4, I4-9, I5-3, I248-4, I163-4, I173-5, I232-3, I384-3, I271-8, I332-3, I366-4, I367-4).

Examples:

...this tool [zip line] is much more than a few minutes of fun. It is a chance for a child to face their fears and take a risk in a safe environment. (I163-4)

A zip-line experience that will appeal to visitors and locals alike will be extremely popular! (I4-9)

Ziplining, while not my personal favorite activity, is wildly popular because it's an opportunity for someone who's a little more subdued by nature to challenge themselves and broaden their horizons with an exhilarating activity that's completely safe. (I248-4)

Con

General

65 commenters generally opposed to the project or opposed to more than one proposed action:

(I262-1, I12-7, I18-1, I1-4, I8-1, I31-1, I51-1, I52-1, I52-6, I63-1, I64-1, I64-10, I83-1, I94-2, I95-2, I119-1, I120-1, I128-3, I151-2, I154-1, I158-4, I201-1, I201-3, I212-1, I216-7, I239-1, I248-8, I278-1, I292-2, I294-1, I316-1, I322-1, I326-4, I338-1, I347-1, I358-1, I405-1, I414-2, I129-4, A9-2, I410-1, I418-3, I134-1, I45-2, I46-3, I273-1, I282-11, I301-3, I270-29, I301-7, I233-1, I283-1, I12-1, I68-1, I152-1, I31-3, I48-1, I128-2, I154-2, I42-1, I54-1, I239-3, I292-1 dup, I11-6, I169-4, I389-2, I170-7, O8-11, I294-6)

Examples:

Part of the appeal of Snow King mountain is its old ski hill feel, something current ownership and management consider unappealing for Jackson. Unfortunately, I believe the days of affordable day tickets and season passes are numbered, certainly to help pay for the substantial projects that SKMR is proposing. I fear that with many of the new plans, it will forever change our town and our beloved town hill in a negative way. (I12-7)

I urge you to consider the impact of the proposed Snow King Improvement Project on this very fragile environment and move to stop the commercial expansion. (I52-6)

I am writing to register my adamant opposition to the proposed Snow King expansion. (I64-1)

...a gondola, a zip line, a road up to the top, and a planetarium--will kill the present assets. They will tear up the mountain, destroying its beauty for questionable, short-term profit. (I95-2)

Specific

Road

27 commenters did not support the new road proposal:

(I235-1, I407-4, I69-3, I85-6, I89-2, I128-1, I171-1, I210-1, I216-4, I268-3, I281-4, I285-1, I294-2 dup, I287-6, I298-1 dup, I251-1, I282-5, I264-7, I8-2, O4-46, I99-5, I108-2 dup, I405-2 dup, I415-6, I59-4, I280-3, I308-1)

Examples:

...save the best ski runs on the mountain by denying the disruptive road cut up the north side of Snow King. Massive boundary expansion and a road cut east, and west are incompatible with the character of the town of Jackson and of Snow King. The public wants the front-side roads left as they are and no more disturbance than necessary for the proposed expansion. (I59-4)

In addition, the proposed road cut on the north facing slopes, that is to give access to the summit area should not be allowed... To name them, and in no particular order: the uphill side of the road cut on a slope of this steepness will mean there is an incredible drop off on the uphill side,

thus severely impacting the ski runs this road will bisect. It will be an ugly scar zigzagging across the slope, visible from afar. (I280-3)

Please do not allow Snow King to erase the history associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps role in 1936 to facilitate the original access road up the mountain, which was designed to use the best possible route. (I308-1)

Expansion

66 commenters were opposed to Snow King Expansion:

(I280-1, I176-1, I159-2, I123-1, I67-1, I81-1, I44-1, I260-17, I260-5, I6-1, I11-5, I407-1, I72-6, I92-1, I105-1, I108-16, I138-2, I169-2, I265-1, I293-2, I355-1, I360-3, I264-6, I69-5, I2-1, I46-1, I92-2, I260-2, I47-1, I92-3, I95-1, I99-4, I101-4, I108-6, I108-8, I108-9, I127-1, I137-4, I188-2, I252-1, I263-1, I263-2, I294-3 dup, I325-1, I338-4, I372-2, I387-2, I391-3, I394-3, I330-2, I407-9, I238-1, I260-3, I260-10, I260-12, I280-2, I290-1, I287-3, I282-8, I109-2, I82-1, I85-8, I270-15, I81-5, O1-6, I222-3).

Examples:

Cutting down USFS forest for more ski trails: Between Targhee & JHMR we have access to exceptional skiing in close proximity... Please don't approve the expansion of terrain either on the backside or adjacent to current runs. (I81-5)

We also have concerns about the proposed expansion into the back bowls of Leeks Canyon. The proposed expansion into this terrain includes multiple lifts/magic carpets, snowmaking, and a yurt camp. Expansion to this extent would have a large impact on field sites that we have used on the ridges west and east/southeast of the summit. But more importantly, the current proposal would create a large increase in human presence and infrastructure in that drainage.

It does not feel appropriate for an expansion of this magnitude into the Leeks Canyon. The proposed expansion of infrastructure and usage should be balanced with the impact on wildlife habitat. (O1-6)

Snow King can do a lot with the grounds and the permits they already have...specifically the backside of the mountain. That's in their permit area...and I would honestly love to see them utilize what they have before we give them go-ahead to develop east and west. (I222-3)

Gondola

Several commenters are against the new gondola proposal:

(I97-1, I123-3, I355-2, I299-45, I270-44, I299-42, I299-57, I270-40, I378-1, I11-3, I294-5, I36-9, I59-1).

Examples:

The proposed Gondola base location lands in a public park that is used by many. I do not understand how there is even the consideration of "gifting" that land to a private entity and receiving nothing in return other than the opportunity for the public to pay to use the services it will provide. (I378-1)

I am against the gondola in Phil Baux Park. This would negatively disrupt a key community gathering space. (I11-3)

...the issue of Phil Baux Park and the ballfield. This is a precious greenway, well-used, places that tie various strands of the community together, and no way should this be given/leased/sold/exchanged with SKMR. (I36-9)

Summit Building/Restaurant/Observatory

Several commenters opposed the summit buildings (I47-4, I81-3, I108-10, I108-15, I169-6, I268-2, I330-1, I216-3, I201-2, I270-34, I285-4, I286-4).

Examples:

The lower grade access road in itself would be such a permanent eyesore which would be out of character with Jackson's conservation ethic, but the proposed monstrous scale of commercial building atop the mountain is simply so over the top that it should not be considered a viable option at all. (I201-2)

This is an excessively large building, especially for a ski area that does not experience enough skier visits to justify. (I270-34)

Snowmaking

One commenter was specifically opposed to snowmaking.

The proposed snowmaking expansion is complete overkill and will not assist SK to provide a sustainable future, and instead will only add to their costly winters. (I299-48)

Summit Beginner Area

Several commenters were opposed to the beginner ski area and new ski runs:

(I114-8, I216-1, I369-2, I129-10, I108-12, I415-4, I299-20).

Examples:

Placing first-time beginners and a ski school headquarters at the top of the mountain is a very poor idea due to the fact that most days up there are not sunny, and typically feature exposure to wind and blowing snow. (I299-20)

Lift A

One commenter specifically opposed to lift A:

This Lift [A] is impossible due to the close proximity to radio towers... in a wind-prone, south facing area with a typically unskiable snowpack (I270-53)

Summer Development

One commenter opposed summer development.

Expanded summer commercial activity on Snow King is not a net benefit for the community. (I137-5)

Night Lighting

One commenter opposed only the night lighting.

I do not support lighting to the summit and along the summit ridge. (I260-14)

Mountain Bike Trails

Four commenters opposed new mountain bike plans.

I also object to Snow King's downhill mountain bike plans. If it is approved, it should be done on already impacted private lands near the Rafferty lift. (I12-4)

Mountain bikers will be difficult to manage and will increase noise, soil disruption and other challenges to the back side of the mountain. (I339-4)

The Bike Park would be hot and dusty, and a challenge to maintain properly. (I270-57)

These south facing [bike] trails and poor soils are not ideal, and hot summer temperatures would also contribute to an unsuccessful, costly business venture. (I311-3)

Zip line

42 commenters were specifically opposed to the zip line:

(I12-3, I17-6, I18-2, I86-3, I89-1, I84-1, I120-2, I158-1, I219-1, I283-2 dup, I285-2; I286-2, I287-1, I284-1, I309-22, I25-8, I100-4, I108-1, I240-2, I278-4, I294-4, I324-1, I378-4, I391-8, I72-1, I218-75, I238-12, I299-28, I299-29, I299-32, I270-27, I260-16, I101-1, I270-32, I170-2, I222-5, I270-33, I36-5, I99-2, I101-3, I299-33, I77-1).

Examples:

Zip lines have nothing to do with experiencing a national forest. (I36-5)

I do not believe Snow King should be allowed to build a zipline from top to bottom on the mountain... rides of this sort have no educational benefit for the public, do not help expose people to the natural landscape in any meaningful way, and are not skills-building in any way... such a noisy and unsightly thrill ride will erode the character of our town. (I99-2)

The idea of a zip line from top to bottom is sickening. Jackson is part of a sacred ecosystem with incredible outdoor recreational opportunities; it is not an amusement park.... If people are seeking this type of thrill, they should try the existing Treetop Adventure Park, a challenging activity (that includes zip lines) that is actually well-blended into its surroundings. (I101-3)

A petition to stop this, negative publicity/media coverage, and a potential lawsuit are foreseeable results of this proposal. [zip line] (I299-33)

We are in support of Snow King being allowed to make improvements to the ski area, but feel that the current proposal, if taken in entirety, goes too far. (O1-1)

APPENDIX 1:

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
A1	Anna Olson, President/CEO Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce	Pre-NEPA, Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
A2	Governor Matthew H. Mead Office of the Governor State of Wyoming	Alternatives
A3	President Eli Bebout, Senate President State of Wyoming	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
A4	Natalia D. Macker, Vice Chair Teton County Board of Commissioners	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations
A5	Mayor Pete Muldoon Town of Jackson	Alternatives; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Noise; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking
A6	Philip S. Strobel, Director NEPA Compliance and Review Program Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation EPA Region 8	Process, Air Quality, Water, Soils, and Watershed
A7	Tyler A. Abbott, Field Supervisor Wyoming Field Office USDI-FWS	Alternatives, Wildlife
A8	Bret Callaway, Natural Resource Analysis Department of Environmental Quality	Water, Soils, and Watershed
A9	Angi Bruce, Habitat Protection Supervisor Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Process, Agency Involvement, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
A10	Diane Shober, Executive Director Wyoming Office of Tourism	Purpose and Need, Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
O1	Don Carpenter, Don Sharaf, and Sarah Carpenter American Avalanche Institute	Alternatives, Wildlife, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
O2	Chris Owen, Trail Program Manager Friends of Pathways	Alternatives, Mitigation, Recreation
O3	Richard Lurie, President Grand View Homeowners Association	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
O4	Skye Schell, Executive Director and Leah Zamesnik, Conservation Policy Manager Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance	Process; Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Cumulative Effects; Mitigation; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Agency Involvement; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
O5	Jessica Jaubert Three Elephant Public Relations	
O6	Will Brandenburg, Western Region Dev. Coach Bill Gunesch, Western Region Dev. Director Chip Knight, Alpine Dev. Director Luke Bodensteiner, Vice Pres. Athletics	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
	US Ski & Snowboard Western Region	
O7	Tony Ferlisi, Executive Director Mountain Bike the Tetons	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
O8	Penelope Maldonado, Executive Director The Cougar Fund	Purpose and Need, Mitigation, Noise, Recreation, Safety, Socioeconomics, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
O9	Chris Brown, Executive Director Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
O10	Samuel Singer, Founder and Executive Director Wyoming Stargazing	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
O11	Jesse Combs, President Advocates for Multi-use of Public Lands	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I1	Abul, Andrew	Proposed Action, Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I2	Adams, Justin	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I3	Adams, Mike	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I4	Ahrensberg, Dana	Purpose and Need, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I5	Alfaro, Alicia	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I6	Ames, Jeff	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I7	Anderson, Bill	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I8	Anderson, Jean Ellen	Purpose and Need, Wildlife, Recreation, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I9	Anderson, Scott	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I10	Armstrong, Jodi	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I11	Baiotto, Theresa	Process, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I12	Ballard, Whitney	Recreation, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I13	Balogh, Holly	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I14	Banville, Michael	Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I15	Barash, Jean	Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Mitigation, Wildlife, Noise, Scenic
I16	Barker, Tyler T.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I17	Barnett, David	Alternatives, Wildlife, Recreation, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I18	Barnett, Eve	Alternatives, Mitigation, Compliance with Other Plans and Regulations, Noise, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I19	Barron, Mark	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I20	Becker, Lynne	Noise
I21	Beebe, Drayton	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I22	Beecher, Emma	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I23	Bell, Bob	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I24	Bender, David C.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I25	Benjamin, Craig M.	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Noise, Recreation, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I26	Bennett, Brett	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I27	Bergeron, Mary	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I28	Bertsch, Josh	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I29	Bierman, Scott	Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I30	Bill, David S, III	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I31	Billimoria, Zahan	Proposed Action, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I32	Blissmer, Suzie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I33	Blomback, Kris	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I34	Boillot, Paul	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I35	Bolden, April	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I36	Boynton, Beverly	Purpose and Need, Alternatives, Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Vegetation, Noise, Socioeconomics, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I37	Boynton, Carrie	Purpose and Need, Recreation, Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I38	Bradshaw, Mary Lynn	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I39	Bradshaw, Tim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I40	Bridges, Drew	Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I41	Briggs, Bill	Alternatives
I42	Brooks, Herb	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I43	Brown, Diana, Betty Terrill, Donna Martin, and Pete Karns	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I44	Brown, Timothy	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I45	Bryan, Virgia	Vegetation, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I46	Bull, Nancy	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I47	Bull, Nancy	Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Noise; Scenic; Traffic and Parking; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I48	Bullock, Sue	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I49	Burgers, Ronald A, Jr.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I50	Burns, Richard & Karen	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I51	Butts, Pat	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I52	Butts, Pat	Purpose and Need, Wildlife, Noise, Recreation, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I53	Bybee, Nate	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I54	Caiazzo, Rose	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I55	Call, Elisha	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I56	Camenzind, Franz	Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with Forest Service Direction; Compliance with Other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Recreation; Safety; Socioeconomics
I57	Campbell, Bill	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I58	Carpender, Jay	Alternatives, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I59	Carson, Nancy Wise	Purpose and Need, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I60	Carter, Lorene	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I61	Caverly, Julie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I62	Celestine, Sarah	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I63	Centrella, Cathy	Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Wildlife, Noise, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I64	Centrella, Nick	Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Vegetation, Wildlife, Noise, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I65	Champion, Greg	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I66	Chapman, Tom	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I67	Chong, Geneva	Pre-NEPA, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I68	Chong, Geneva	Proposed Action, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I69	Chong, Geneva, Jim LaRoe, Rod Newcomb, Brad Neilson	Pre-NEPA, Purpose and Need, Alternatives, Mitigation, Cultural, Recreation, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I70	Clark, Donna Budge	Purpose and Need, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I71	Clark, Frances H.	Process; Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Noise; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking
I72	Cochary, Kevin	Pre-NEPA, Proposed Action, Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Noise, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I73	Codi, Crissy	Vegetation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I74	Cole, Anna	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I75	Coleman, Jim	Mitigation, Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I77	Connell, Natalie	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I78	Conrad, Bart	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I79	Cooke, Thomas	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I80	Coombs, Emily	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I81	Corotis, Julie	Noise, Recreation, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I82	Cox, Carter	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I83	Daly, Meg	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I84	Danahy, Samantha	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Traffic and Parking, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I85	Dann, Mitchell	Process, Traffic and Parking, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I86	Davenport, Kirk	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Recreation, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I87	Davidsson, Peter	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I88	Davis, Ted	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I89	DeOrsay, Mark	Alternatives, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I90	DesLauriers, Kit	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I91	DiBattista, Matthew	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I92	Diehl, Robert A.	Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I93	Djangiri, Mahtisa	Mitigation; Water, Soil, and Watershed; Wildlife; Cultural; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking
I94	Domer, Cherilynn	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I95	Dornan, David and Reade	Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Noise, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I96	Douville, Jerry	Cultural, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I97	Droppert, Tristan	Proposed Action, Alternatives, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I98	Duckstein, Katie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I99	Dukart, Michael	Alternatives, Mitigation, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I100	Dunford-Milburn, Ali	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I101	Eastman, Beth	Alternatives, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I102	Eden, Mike	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I103	Edwards, Ian & Rita	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I104	Erickson, Mary	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I105	Esquivel, Walt	Proposed Action, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I106	Etcheverry, Alicia	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I107	Etcheverry, Nathan	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I108	Ewing, Frank and Patty	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Vegetation, Wildlife, Noise, Recreation, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I109	Ewing, Heather	Alternatives, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I110	Faupel, Matt	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I111	Fitzgerald, Barbara	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I112	Fitzpatrick, Kelley	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I113	Fleck, R. Daniel	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I114	Flinch, Hans	Proposed Action, Alternatives, Mitigation, Wildlife, Recreation, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I115	Flynn, Eric and Mike Bessette	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I116	Free, Allison	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I117	Free, Shad, Allison Free, Lexi Free, and Kahne Free	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I118	Furlong, Pilar	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I119	Gaertner, Lynnette	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I120	Gailey, John	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I121	Garling, Roger and Sheryl	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I122	Garling, Sheryl and Roger	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I123	Garrard, Laura	Wildlife, Recreation, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I124	Gayton, Christina	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I125	Gelber, Kirsten	Scenic, Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I126	Gelber, Sean M.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I127	Gelieth, Claudia	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I128	Genzer, Jim and Laurie	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I129	Germeles, Evan	Pre-NEPA, Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Alternatives, Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Recreation, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I130	Gillett, Kimberly	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I131	Gilmore, Madison	
I132	Glick, Joe	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I133	Glinsky, Alexandra	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I134	Gonzales, David	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I135	Gordon, Mark	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I136	Graham, Bob and Karen Terra	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I137	Grossman, Judd	Proposed Action, Mitigation, Noise, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I138	Gunn, Belinda	Alternatives, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I139	Gyr, Philip	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I140	Haines, Caroline	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I141	Hammer, Michael	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I142	Hammerel, Jim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I143	Hammons, John & Irene	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I144	Hanscom, Brett	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I145	Hardaker, Mike	Scenic, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I146	Harland, Kurt	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I147	Harland, Tim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I148	Hartman, Megan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I149	Hasenack, Brian	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I150	Hasenack, Shannon	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I151	Hass, Julien	Alternatives, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I152	Hawtin, Bruce	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I153	Hay, John III	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I154	Hayse, Bruce	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I155	Henderson, Doug	Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I156	Herman, Michael L.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I157	Hills, Brett	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I158	Hirsch, Ruth	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I159	Hisey, Brenda	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I160	Hisey, John and Brenda	Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Alternatives, Mitigation, Safety, Scenic, Traffic and Parking, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I161	Hisey, John	
I162	Hohman, Nina	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I163	Holland, Tom	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I164	Horn, Scott D.	Scenic, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I165	Hoyt, Brad	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I166	Hunt, Rick	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I167	Jackowski, Mark V.	Purpose and Need, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I168	Jaekle, Don	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I169	Jakovac, Andrew	Purpose and Need; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I170	Jakovac, Andrew	Process, Alternatives, Noise, Recreation, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I171	Jansen, Richard	Alternatives, Noise, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I172	Jaubert, Chris	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I173	Jaubert, Jessica	Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I174	Jensen, Levi	Wildlife
I175	Johnson, Frederick	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I176	Jordan, Tom and Becky	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I177	Judson, Sara Beth	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I178	Karlen, Johan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I179	Karns, Peter and Rachael	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I180	Kaufman, Brook	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I181	Kavanagh, Kevin	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I182	Keefe, John	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I183	Kemp, Laura	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I184	Klamer, Gabe	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I185	Klein, Alex	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I186	Klomprens, Julie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I187	Klotz, Katy and Tom	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I188	Krystiniak, Josh	Alternatives, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I189	Kudar, Michael and Serese	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I190	Kuechle, Gerrit and Peg	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I191	Kuechle, Peg	Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I192	Kuipers, Dan	Proposed Action, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I193	Kuipers, Kim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I194	Kyle, Gina	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I195	Kyle, Ted	Purpose and Need, Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I196	Lacy, Scott	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I197	Landsman, Peter	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I198	Lane, Frank	Alternatives, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I199	LaPier, Rob	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I200	Law, Clarene	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I201	Laybourn, Jim	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I202	Leith, Toby	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I203	Leon, Nancy	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I204	Lewis, Jean	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I205	Liebzeit, Ed	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I206	Lockhart, Kelly	Land Use
I207	Long, Adam	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I208	Long, Peter	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I209	Longfield, Priscilla	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I210	Lundquist, David	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I211	Lurie, Richard	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I212	Lurie, Sue	Alternatives; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I213	Lynch-Nyhan, Alma	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I214	Madera, Joe	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I215	Maguire, Liz	Alternatives, Traffic and Parking, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I216	Mander, Brigid	Alternatives, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I217	Marsh, Susan	Proposed Action
I218	Marsh, Susan	Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with Forest Service Directives; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Air Quality; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Cultural; Noise; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I219	Martens, Genny	Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I220	Matous, Ron	Safety
I221	Maxwell, Jim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I222	May, Mike S.	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I223	McCartney, Dale	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I224	McCartney, Ryan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I225	McCartney, Vicky	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I226	McConnaughey, Ryan	Recreation, Safety, Comment in support of the Proposed Action
I227	McDonald, Julia	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I228	McGee, Brian	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I229	McGee, Scott	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I230	McLaurin, Duncan	Socioeconomics, Comment in support of the Proposed Action
I231	Meadows, Steve	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I232	Means, Chris	Comment in support of the Proposed Action
I233	Meeks, Shannon	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I234	Melichar, Chuck	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I235	Memmer, Mark and Vickie	Alternatives, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I236	Mendenhall, Mack	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I237	Miller, Lorna	
I238	Miller, Lorna	Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Mitigation; Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Recreation; Safety; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I239	Mills, Dave	Vegetation, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I240	Monson, Bart	Alternatives, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I241	Moran, Jeff	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I242	Moran, Jeff	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I243	Morey, Lance	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I244	Morley, Bruce	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I245	Morley, Bruce	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I246	Morrison, Michael	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I247	Moseley, Liz	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I248	Muncaster, Sue	Proposed Action, Alternatives, Mitigation, Wildlife, Recreation, Traffic and Parking, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I249	Newcomb, Rod	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I250	Newcomb, Rod	Alternatives, Wildlife, Recreation
I251	Newcomb, Anne	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I252	Nice, Kristin & Galen Rockenbach	Noise, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I253	Nunn, Jack	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I254	O'Brien, Scott	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I255	Ockers, Fred	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I256	Offutt, Tucker	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I257	Olson, Anna	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I258	Olson, Jeff	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I259	Osnos, Noah	Process, Purpose and Need, Wildlife, Recreation, Safety, Scenic
I260	Owen, Chris	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I261	Owens, Shannon E.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I262	Park, Dana Buchwald	Purpose and Need, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I263	Patno, Kevin	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I264	Patridge, Nat	Alternatives, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I265	Peck, Chris	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I266	Peightal, Daryl M.	Safety, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I267	Perkins, Donald S.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I268	Peterson, Dan	Purpose and Need, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I269	Petri, Sam	Scoping
I270	Petri, Sam	Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with Forest Service Directives; Air Quality; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Land Use; Noise; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking; Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I271	Prichard, Mike	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I272	Public, Jean	
I273	Public, Jean	Wildlife, Comment in opposition to the Proposed Action
I274	Putnam, George	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I275	Putnam, Tom	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I276	Quinlivan, Laura	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I277	Rainey, Josh	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I278	Randolph, Gretchen	Wildlife, Cultural, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I279	Rankin, Lucy	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I280	Read, Anne Fletcher	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I281	Read, Benjamin H.	Alternatives, Recreation, Scenic, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I282	Reeber, Lisa	Alternatives, Climate Change and Snow Quantity, Wildlife, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I283	Reed, John	Noise, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I284	Reimers, Frederick	Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Noise; Recreation; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Traffic and Parking; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I285	Reimers, Fred A.	Mitigation, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I286	Reimers, Margaret	Alternatives, Mitigation, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I287	Reimers, Rebecca	Alternatives; Mitigation; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I288	Ricciardi, Beth	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I289	Rice, Travis	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I290	Ripps, Andy	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I291	Ritter, Rebecca	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I292	Robinson, Sami	Vegetation, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I293	Rodewald, April	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I294	Rogers, D. Terry	Vegetation, Wildlife, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I295	Ross, Joyce	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I296	Ross, William	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I297	Roth, Anne Katherine	Comments in support of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I298	Rothman, Shane and Kathy Tompkins	Wildlife, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I299	Rothman, Shane	Scoping; Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Alternatives; Mitigation; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Vegetation; Wildlife; Cultural; Noise; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics; Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I300	Rothman, Shane	Scoping
I301	Rothman, Shane	Pre-NEPA, Alternatives, Mitigation, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Cultural, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I302	Rothman, Shane	Scoping; Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Mitigation; Compliance with Forest Service Directives; Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Land Use; Noise; Recreation; Safety; Scenic; Socioeconomics
I303	Rothman, Shane	Scoping
I304	Rothman, Shane	Alternatives, Cultural
I305	Rothman, Shane	Socioeconomics
I306	Rothman, Shane	Scoping
I307	Rothman, Shane	Agency Involvement
I308	Rothman, Shane	Purpose and Need; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Safety; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I309	Rothman, Shane	Pre-NEPA, Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Alternatives, Mitigation, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Cultural, Noise, Recreation, Safety, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I310	Rothman, Shane	Cultural
I311	Rothman, Shane	Alternatives, Recreation, Safety, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I312	Rothman, Shane	Recreation
I313	Rothman, Shane	Wildlife
I314	Rothman, Shane	Alternatives
I315	Rothman, Shane	Proposed Action, Alternatives, Safety, Traffic and Parking
I316	Rothman, LaVonda	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I317	Rutzick, Jessica	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I318	Sanchez, Scott	Recreation, Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I319	Sanden, Edward	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I320	Santelices, Christian	Alternatives, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I321	Schaefer, Ryan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I322	Schlenger, Debbie	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I323	Schutt, Sargent E.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I324	Schwender, Craig	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I325	Scott, Mary Gibson	Wildlife, Recreation, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I326	Shapiro, Danielle	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Cultural, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I327	Shaw, Gary C.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I328	Sherburne, Jon	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I329	Sherburne, Linda	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I330	Shuptrine, Sandy	Scoping, Wildlife, Safety, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I331	Silberberg, Gary	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I332	Silvernell, Mary	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I333	Simon, Ronna	Process; Purpose and Need; Proposed Action; Mitigation; Climate Change and Snow Quantity; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Land Use; Safety
I334	Simpson, Dave	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I335	Sinclair, Benj	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I336	Smith, A.J.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I337	Smith, Christopher J.	
I338	Smith, Daniel	Wildlife, Cultural, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I339	Sollitt, David	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations; Water, Soils, and Watershed; Wildlife; Land Use; Safety; Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I340	Souci, Elisa San	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I341	Spitzer, Len	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I342	Stanley, Carey	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I343	Staryk, Ted	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I344	Stearns, Forest	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I345	Stephenson, Ann	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I346	Stiehl, Chris	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I347	Stone, Cindy	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I348	Strand, Chad	Pre-NEPA, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I349	Strand, Rose	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I350	Strobel, Robert	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I351	Stuart, Jeb	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I352	Stubbs, David	Wildlife, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I353	Stump, Chris	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I354	Sullivan, Stephen	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I355	Symons, Virginia Powell	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I356	Tarrel, Richard J.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I357	Taylor, Dillon	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I358	Theise, Sue	Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I359	Thompson, Heidi	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I360	Thompson, Jim	Socioeconomics, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I361	Thompson, Jesse	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I362	Thompson, Sally	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I363	Tompkins, Kathy	Wildlife, Recreation
I364	Toolson, Katie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I365	Touchton, Michael	Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I366	Tozzi, Johnny	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I367	Tozzi, Meaghan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I368	Trachtenberg, Stan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I369	Tsuruda-Dobell, Denise	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Safety, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I370	Turner, Jamie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I371	Unfried, Amy	Alternatives, Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Wildlife, Safety
I372	Unfried, Juliet	Wildlife, Safety, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
I373	Unfried, Stephen	Alternatives, Wildlife
I374	Van Vracken, Charlie	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I375	Vandenberg, David	Proposed Action, Mitigation, Air Quality, Recreation, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I376	VanHoutan, Tyler T.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I377	Vaughan, Doyle and Diana	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I378	Vito, Jim	Purpose and Need, Alternatives, Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I379	Waldrop, Jim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I380	Walker, Karen	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I381	Walker, Kristin	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I382	Walker, Mark	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I383	Walker, Mark A.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I384	Walker, Tim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I385	Wallace, Jim	Air Quality, Noise, Scenic
I386	Wallace, Linore	Proposed Action, Wildlife
I387	Wallace, Linore	Wildlife, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I388	Walters, Ryan	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I389	Walther, Tim	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I390	Watters, Molly	
I391	Webster, Dawn	Purpose and Need, Alternatives, Wildlife, Noise, Safety, Scenic, Traffic and Parking, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I392	Wetzel, Tyeise	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I393	Wheeler, Lou Lou	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I394	Wheeler, Whiteley	Wildlife, Scenic, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I395	Wilcox, David	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I396	Williams, Jodi (Jodi Armatrong)	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I397	Wilson, Benny	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I398	Witt, Zach	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I399	Wogoman, Barbara	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I400	Wogoman, Jeff	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I401	Wold, Jack	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I402	Wold, Marla	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I403	Wood, Brandon	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I404	Wood, Julianne	Purpose and Need, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I405	Woodbury, Josh	Wildlife, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I406	Woodie, Paul	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I407	Woodmencey, Jim	Proposed Action, Alternatives, Air Quality, Vegetation, Noise, Safety, Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action
I408	Woods, Sara (Sara Beth Judson)	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I409	Woods, Thomas W.	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I410	Wren, Vicki and Mark Saunto	Wildlife, Cultural, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I411	Wu, Jeanne	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I412	Young, Geoff	Compliance with other Plans and Regulations, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I413	Zagar, Branko	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I414	Zimmerman, Zach	Comments in support and opposition to various elements of the Proposed Action

ID	Name	Topic(s) Raised
Late Comments		
O12	Denielle Godwin, Director of Sales and Marketing Snow King Resort Hotel & Condos	Socioeconomics, Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I415	Detwyler, Carl	Wildlife, Noise, Scenic, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I416	Hendrickson, Tim	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I417	Maguire, Brian	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I418	Minor, Jeremy	Wildlife, Socioeconomics, Comments in opposition to the Proposed Action
I419	Read, Cecily	Comments in support of the Proposed Action
I420	Wemple, Bob	Proposed Action, Comments in support of the Proposed Action